YANN / HENRIET
BLACK ANGEL
2. Scarface
EUROPE COMICS

YANN
HENRIET
USAGI

BLACK ANGEL

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Warning

"Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted;
persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished;
persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.

BY ORDER OF THE AUTHOR."

Mark Twain (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn)

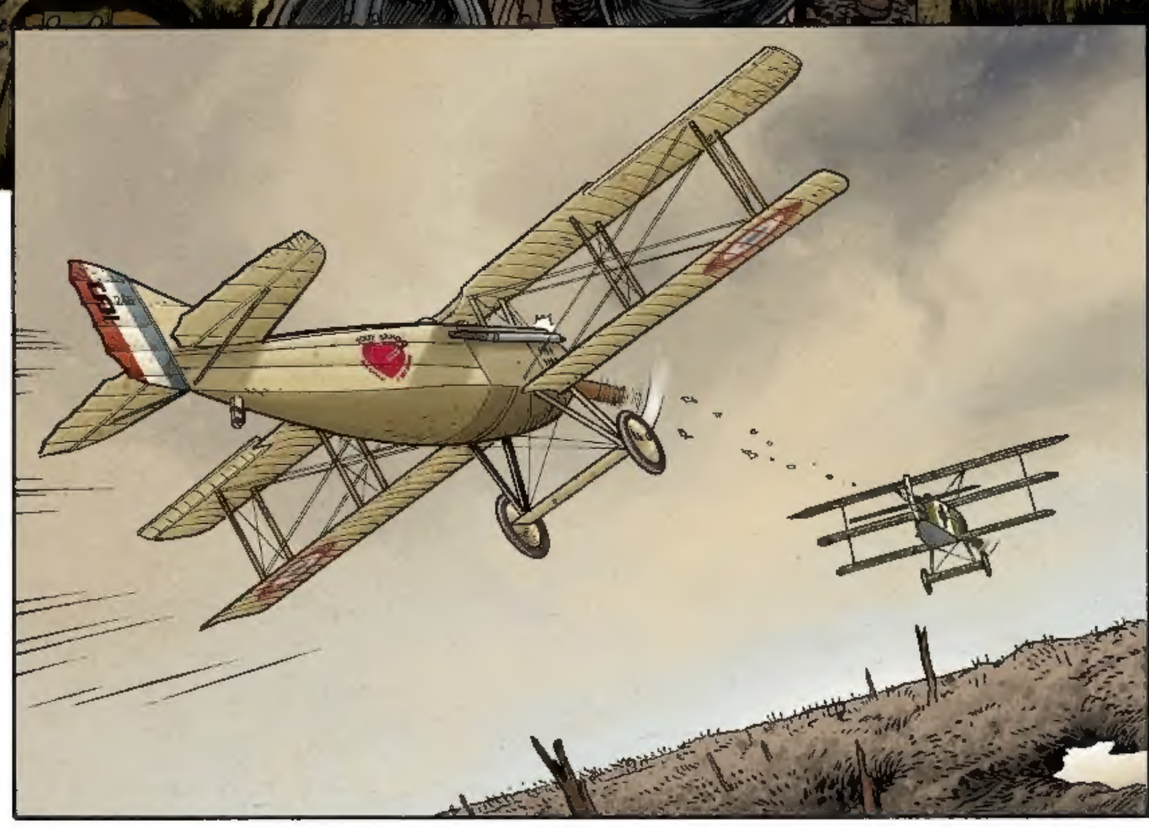
I would like to thank:

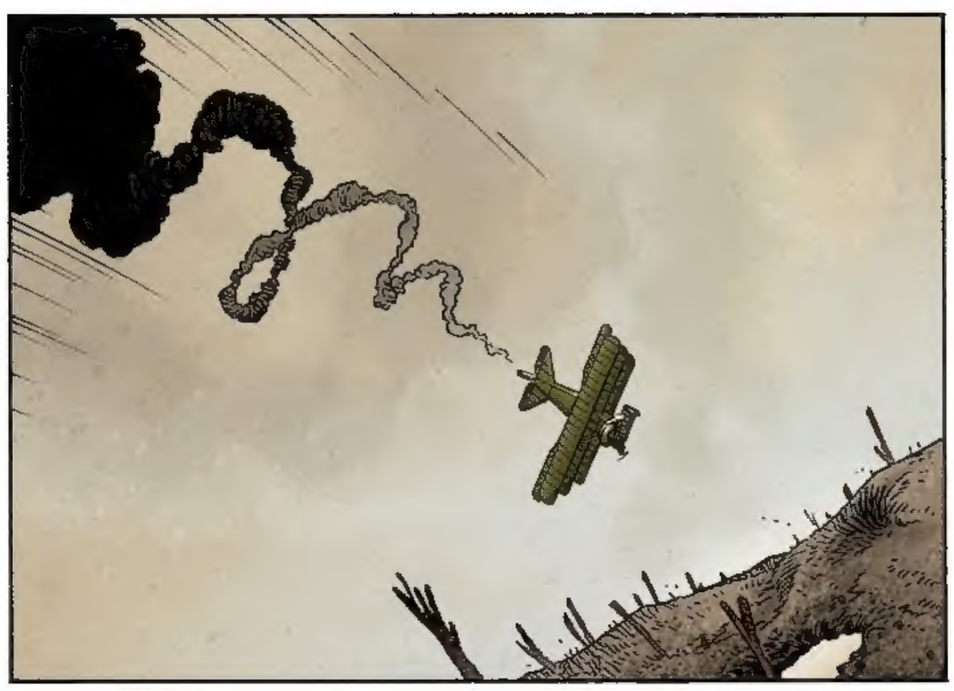
SAMUEL BIONDO, who is rapidly becoming an expert in aviation history.
ADRIEN VINAY, my editor, who has always boosted my confidence.
MICHEL DEGAGNES, my constant collaborator and friend.
BERNARD GRAILET, for all your help in completing this volume.
My cousin **SERGE** and his son OLIVIER FRÈRE, the magician.
MAËLLE and **FLORENCE ELLEBOUDT**, for being there when I needed you.
And finally, **USAGI**, my colorist, who always does more than I could ever hope.

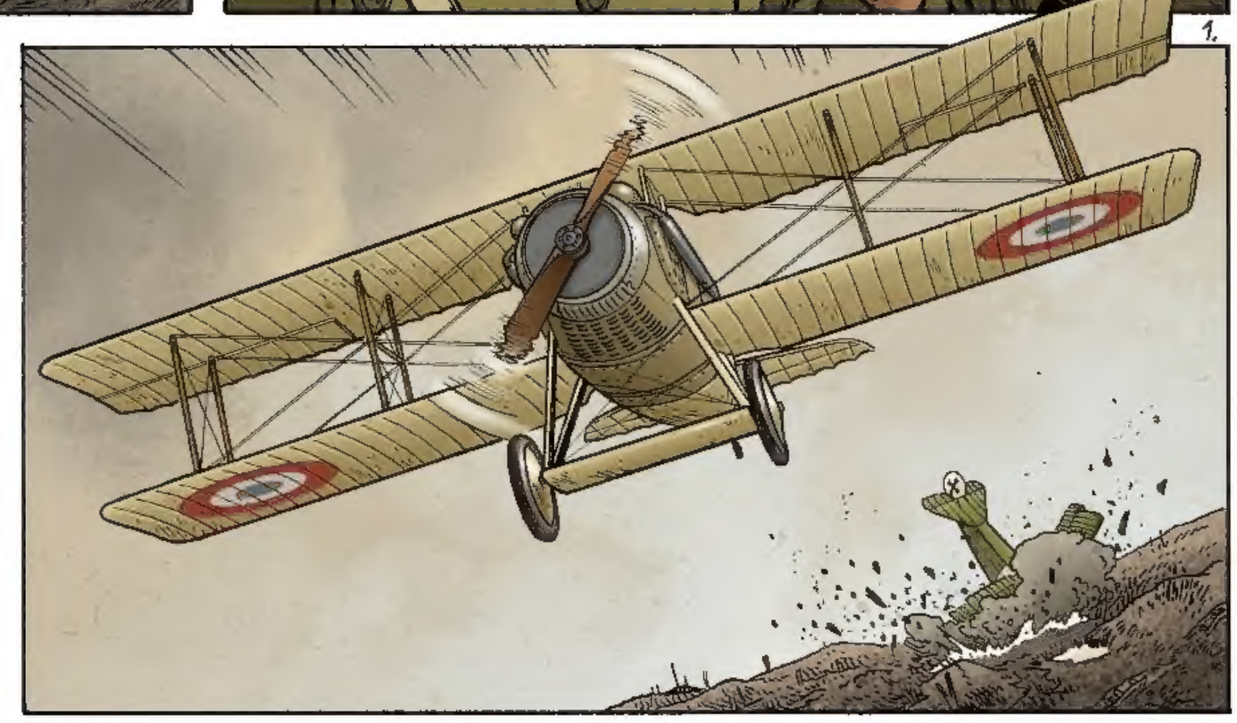
Alain H.

Although inspired by actual events and people, this story is pure fiction.

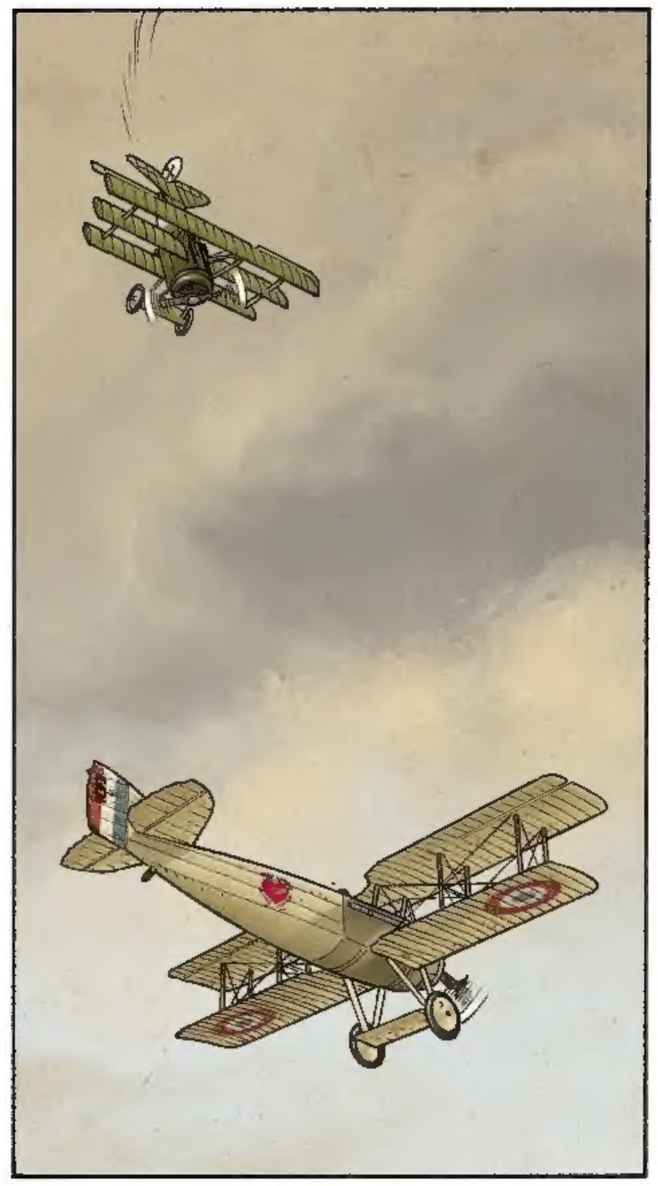
OBSERVATION POST #29 ON THE ARGONNE FRONT, NEAR MAFFRÉCOURT IN NORTH-EAST FRANCE.

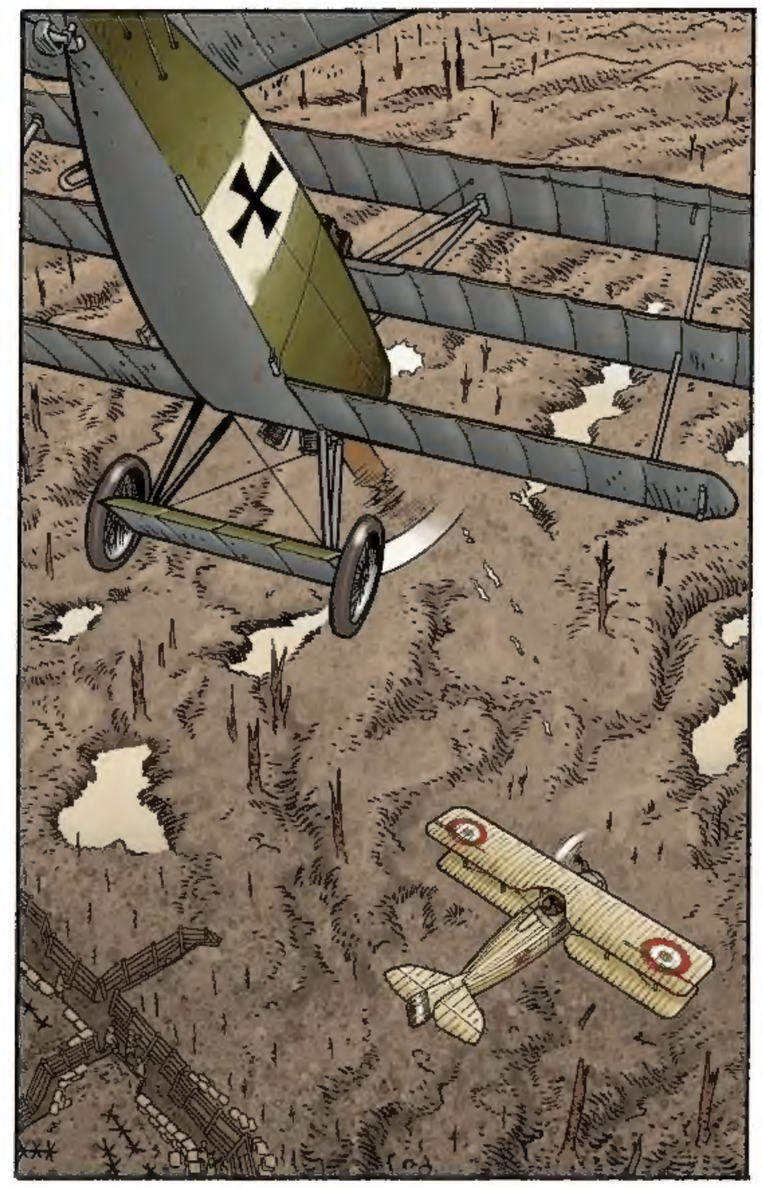


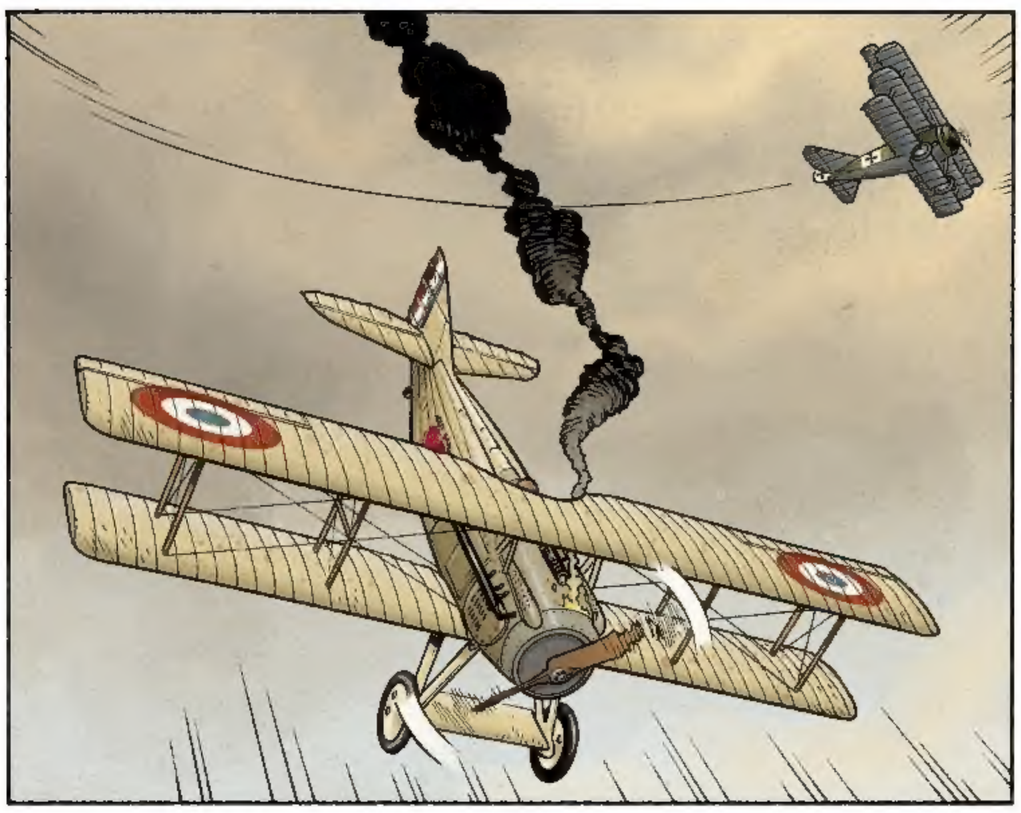




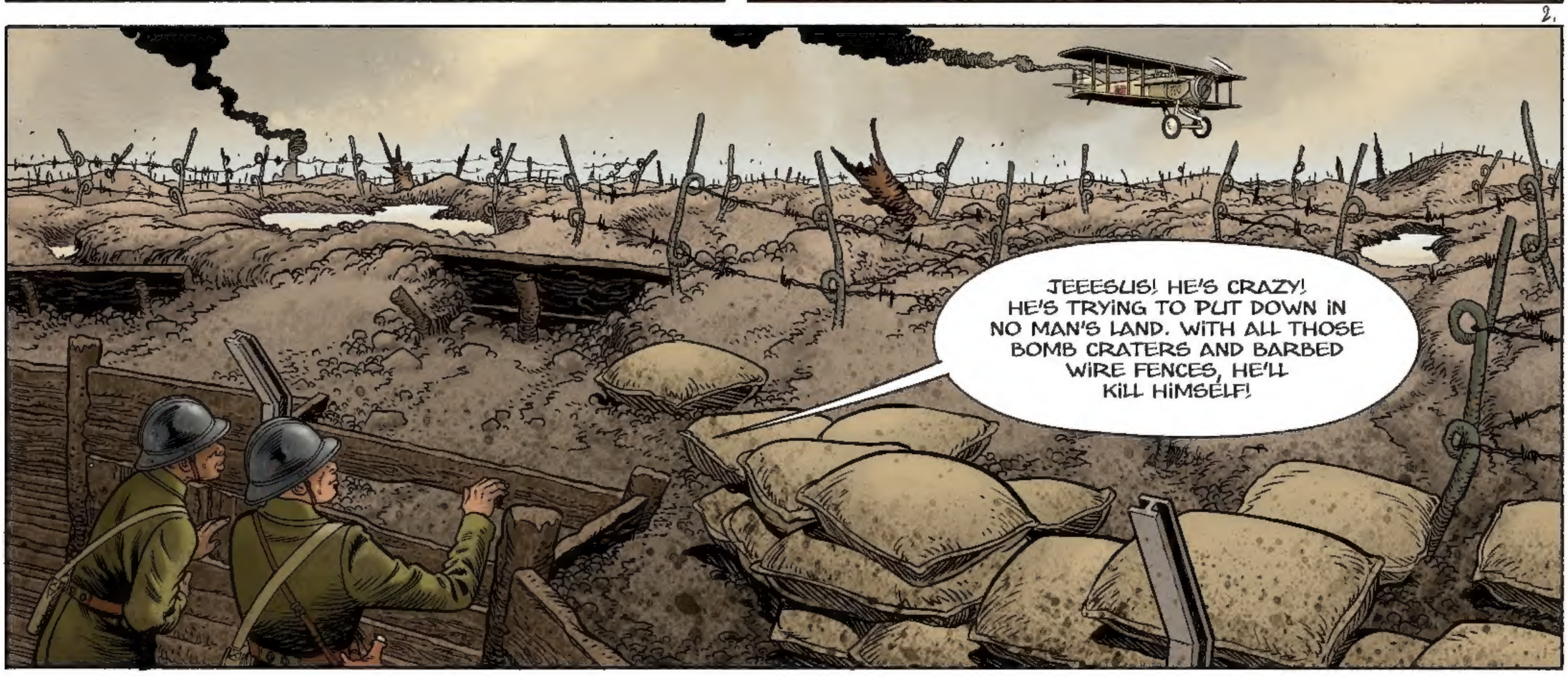
A FLYIN' ACE!
VIVE LA FRANCE!



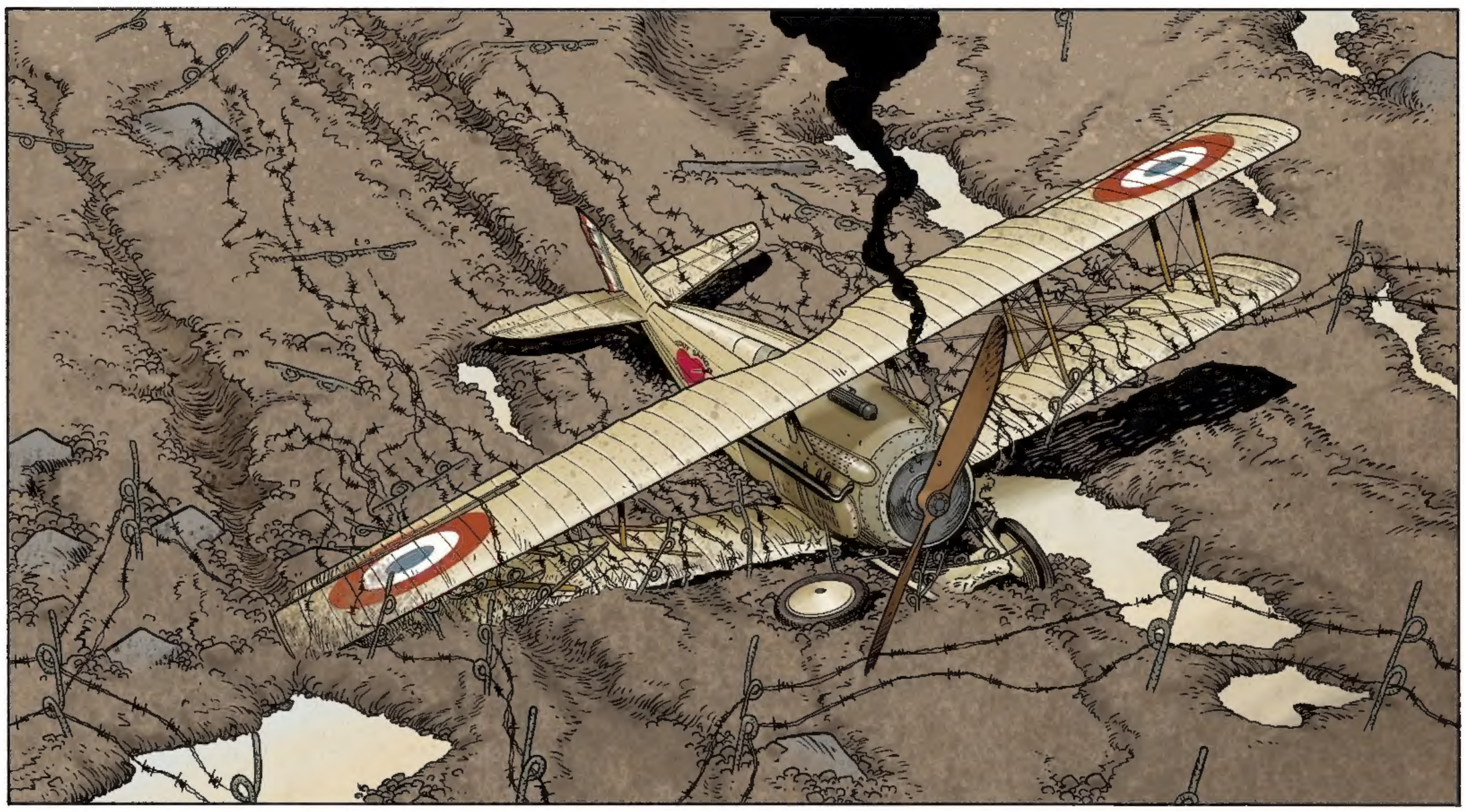




NO! THEY GOT HIM! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING DOWN!
NO, LOOK! HE'S PULLING UP! HE'S GONNA TRY TO LAND IT!


JEEESUS! HE'S CRAZY! HE'S TRYING TO PUT DOWN IN NO MAN'S LAND. WITH ALL THOSE BOMB CRATERS AND BARBED WIRE FENCES, HE'LL KILL HIMSELF!

NO, WAIT! HE'S CLEVERER THAN YOU THINK! THE BARBED WIRE WILL SLOW HIM UP AS HE COMES IN!
TOUT SAINT



BUT HE'S NOT MOVING. HE MUST NOT HAVE MADE IT...
ANY RED WINE LEFT TO POUR ONE OUT?

3.
NONE?!
GOD DAMN! YOU MEAN YOU GUZZLED THE WHOLE THING BY YOURSELF?!

I'M STARVIN' OVER HERE! YOU SEEN THE HOT SOUP MAN YET?
DREAM ON, BUDDY! THE LAST TWO WERE SHOT DEAD BY SNIPERS, SO VOLUNTEERS AREN'T EXACTLY LINING UP!
SOME-BODY NEEDS TO GET THOSE SNIPERS...
WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO SEE OUT THERE, ANYWAY, WALT? SOME SEXY LITTLE GRETCHEN FLASHING HER BIG BAZONGERS JUST TO WIND US UP?
I'M WATCHING THE RATS RUNNING AROUND IN NO MAN'S LAND.
YUCK! IMAGINE GOING OUT AT NIGHT AND EATING ALL THE BODIES STUCK IN THE MUD!
JEEZ! LOOK AT THAT ONE, JOHNNY! IT'S THE SIZE OF ONE OF OUR RACCOONS BACK IN LOUISIANA!
WHAT?! IT'S COMING THIS WAY, THE FILTHY CRITTER!
GOOD! TARGET PRACTICE! WHERE'S MY RIFLE?
HEY! WAIT... IT'S NOT A RAT!
IT CAN'T BE A HARE... NOT OUT HERE!
DON'T SHOOT! IT'S A MONKEY!
D'YOU THINK IT'S A FRENCH MONKEY?
COULD BE... LOOK, THERE'S A NOTE TUCKED IN ITS COLLAR.

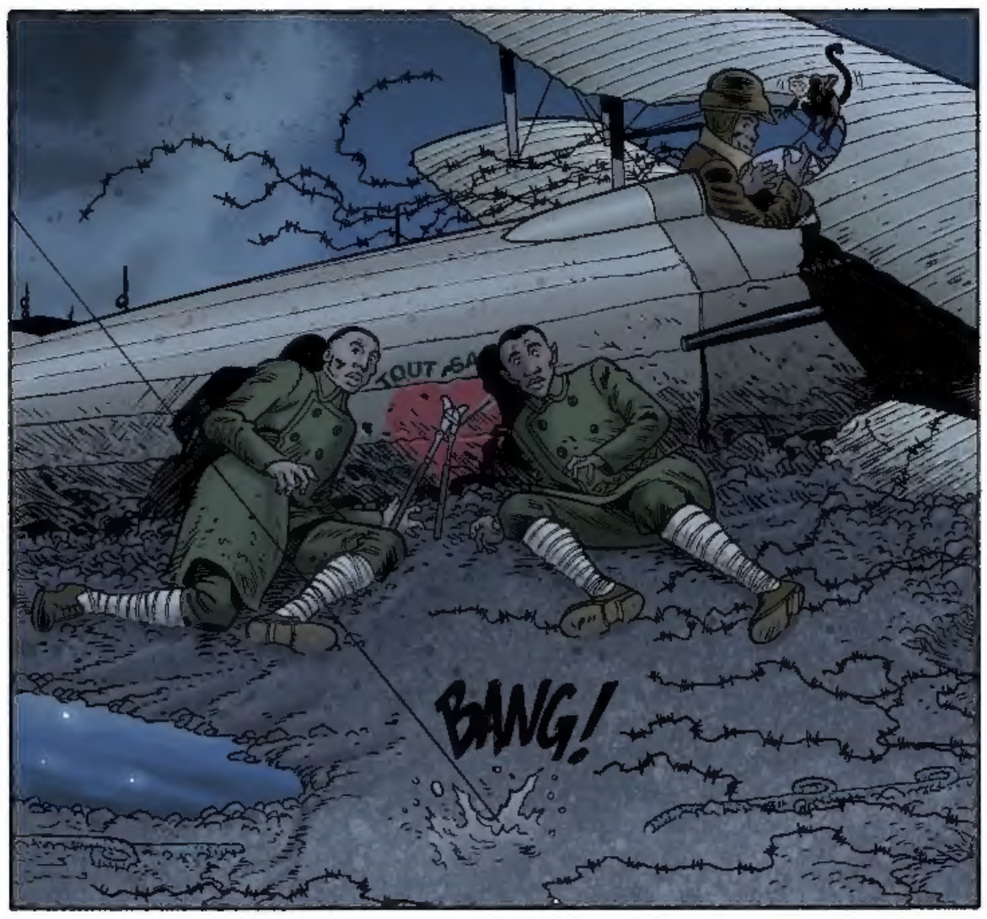
IT'S WRITTEN IN RED... IN BLOOD, MAYBE?
GIMME! I UNDERSTAND FRENCH BETTER THAN YOU.
ONLY THE RUDE WORDS!
PLANE PILOT... SHOT DOWN... STUCK IN MY ZINC... NEED YOUR HELP...
IN MY ZINC?!
YEAH... IT MUST BE THE NAME OF HIS PLANE...
...AND HE'S SIGNED IT... BUT I CAN'T READ HIS NAME...
...EUGENE BU... BUL... LARD... 5TH FIGHTER... SQUADRON... 93...
EUGENE BULLARD?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
THE BLACK SWALLOW OF DEATH HIMSELF!
EEEE, EEEE!
HEY, LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM!
I'M TAKING MY HELMET OFF. IF IT HITS ONE OF THEM PIGTAIL POLES IN THE BARBED WIRE FENCE, IT'LL CLANG LIKE THE LIBERTY BELL!
YOU'RE GOING OUT INTO NO MAN'S LAND?!
I GOTTA! IT'S PITCH DARK. OUR BEST CHANCE!
GEEE, WALTER... I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDE--
5
BESSIE WOULD NEVER FORGIVE US FOR LEAVING THE BLACK SWALLOW TO DIE WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP HIM!
WELL... MAYBE WE COULD--
GROW A SPINE, WILL YA! LET'S GO!

BONJOUR, FRIEND! BAD WEATHER OUT HERE FOR SWALLOWS!
GRÂCE À DIEU! FINALLY, SOME HELP! I THOUGHT I WOULD BE PLAYING DEAD OUT HERE FOREVER! I GOT BULLETS IN MY LEGS AND CAN'T BUDGE 'EM...

EEEEE!
EEEEE!
SHH! CALM DOWN, JIMMY! YOU WERE A GOOD BOY, BUT QUIET NOW OR THEY'LL--

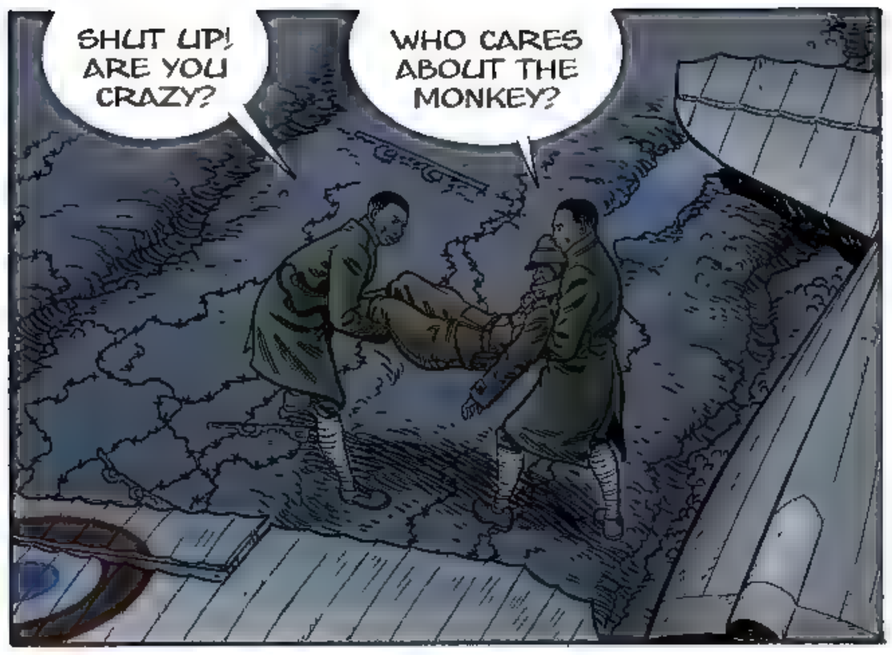
YOU'RE STRONGER. YOU GOTTA CARRY HIM.
FINE, BUT YOU BETTER MAKE DAMN SURE I DON'T GET SHOT FOR IT!

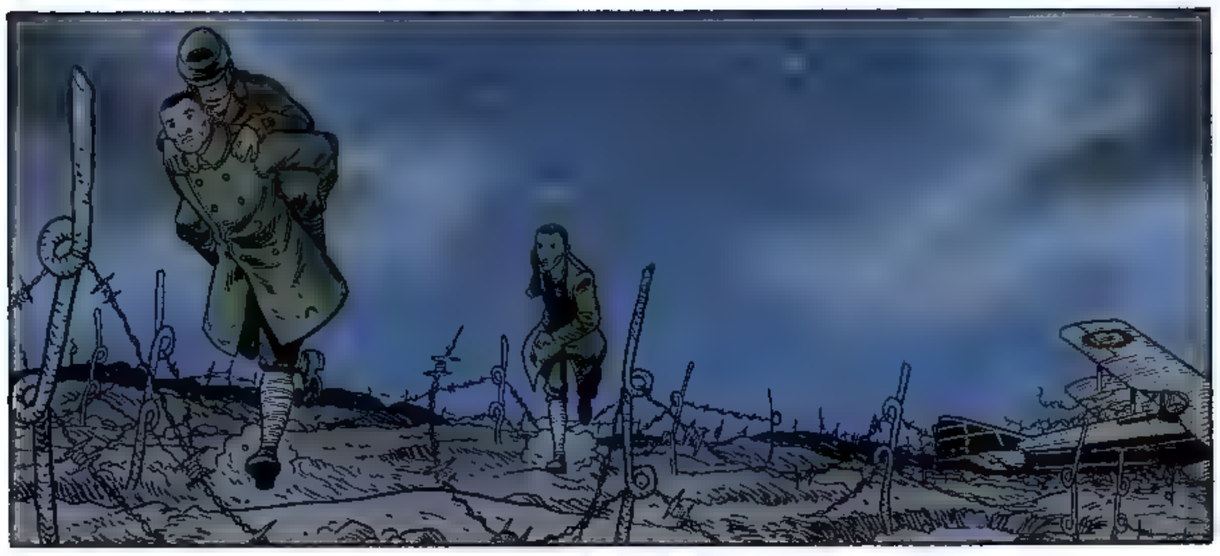
6.

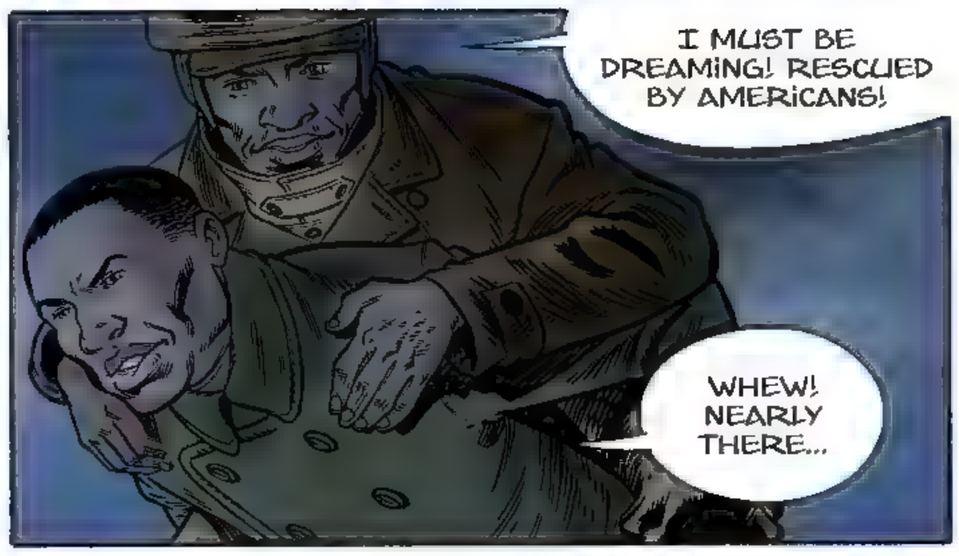

BANG!

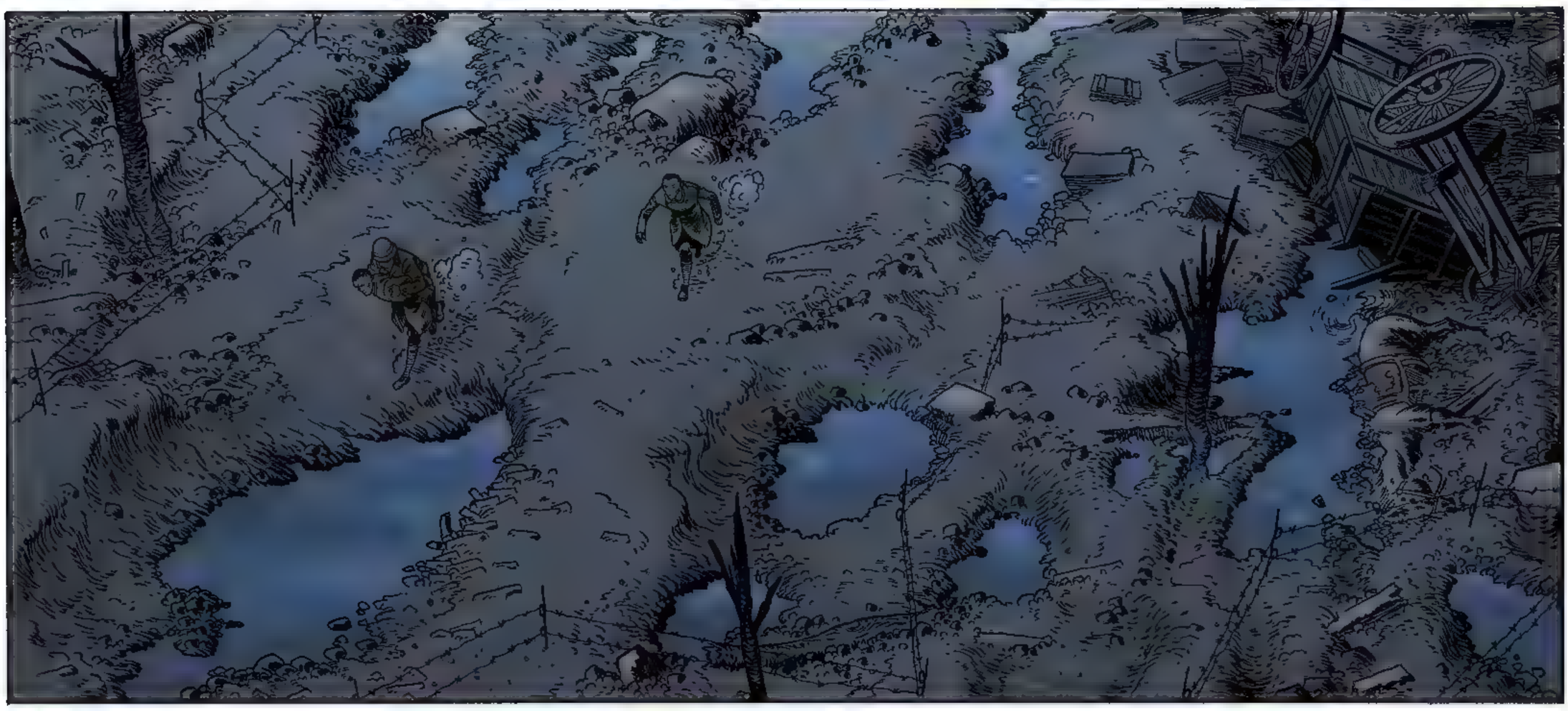
POW!
POW!
POW!
EEEEE!

THEY'RE SHOOTING AT THE MONKEY! LET'S GET THIS FROGGIE OUT OF HIS TIN BOX WHILE WE CAN!
JIMMY! THEY'LL SHOOT MY JIMMY!


SHUT UP! ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHO CARES ABOUT THE MONKEY?

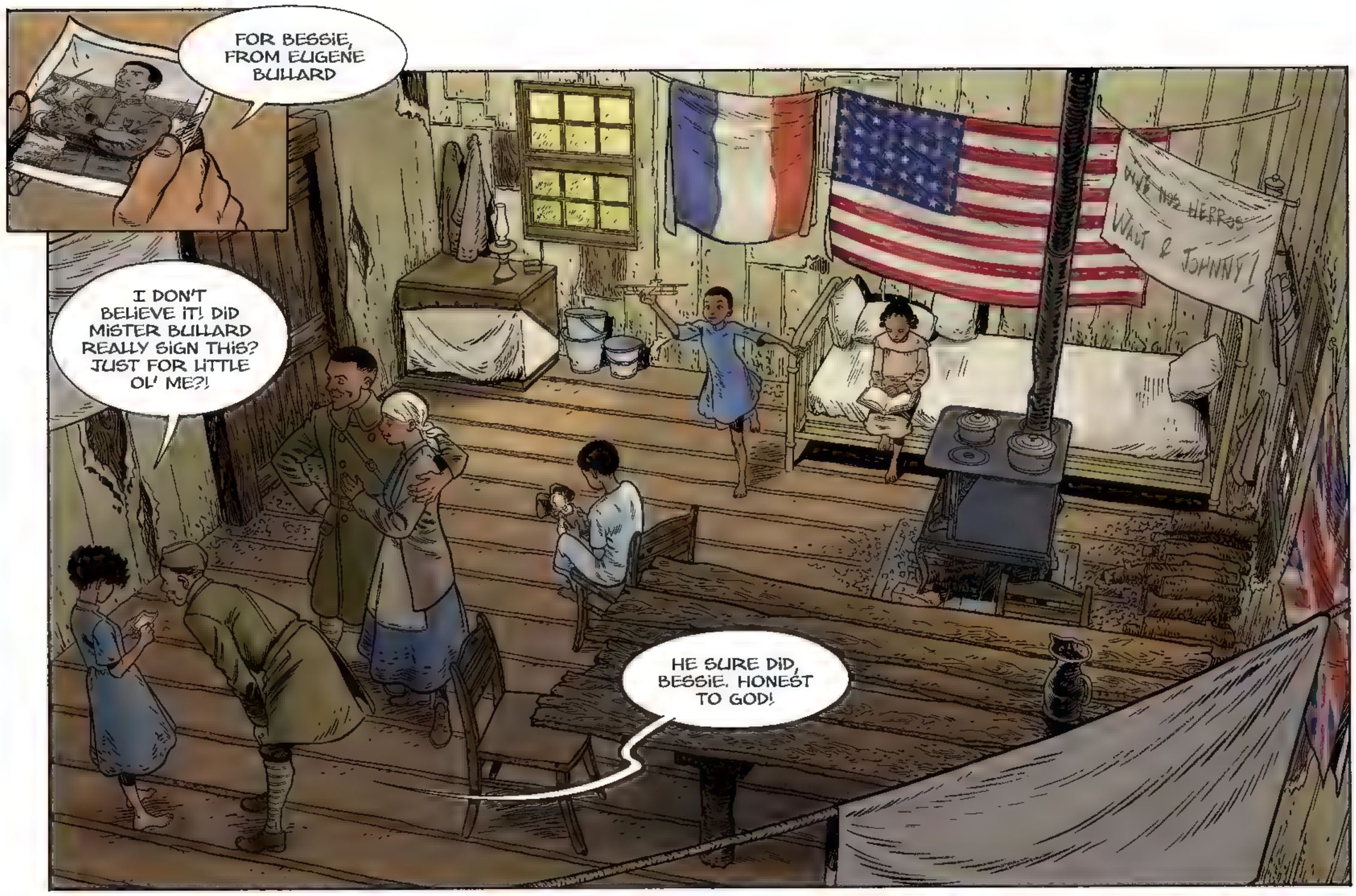


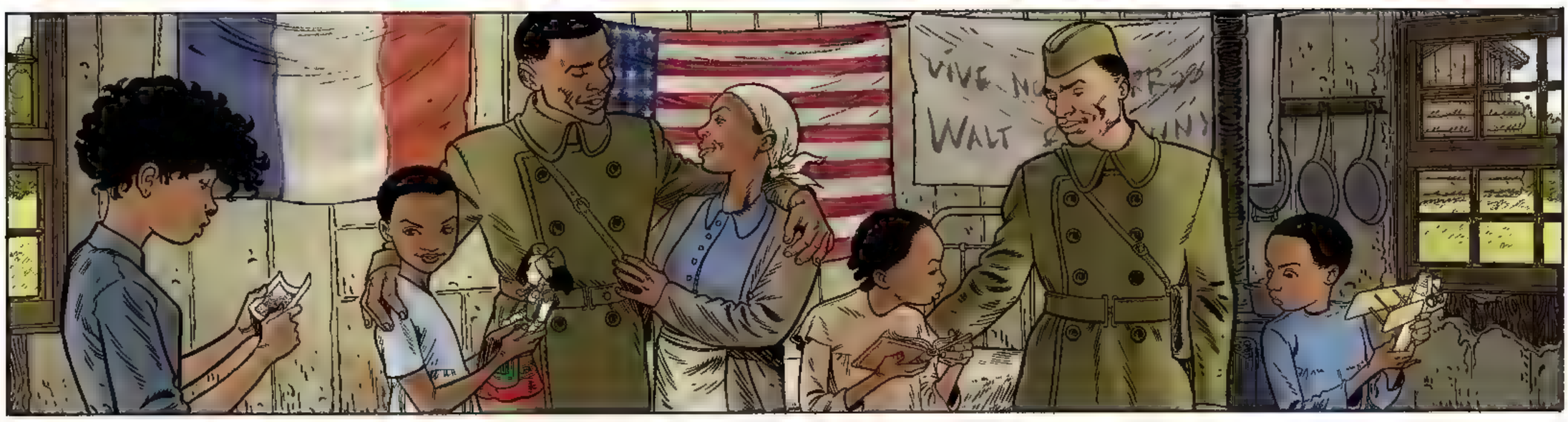

I MUST BE DREAMING! RESCUED BY AMERICANS!
WHEW! NEARLY THERE...



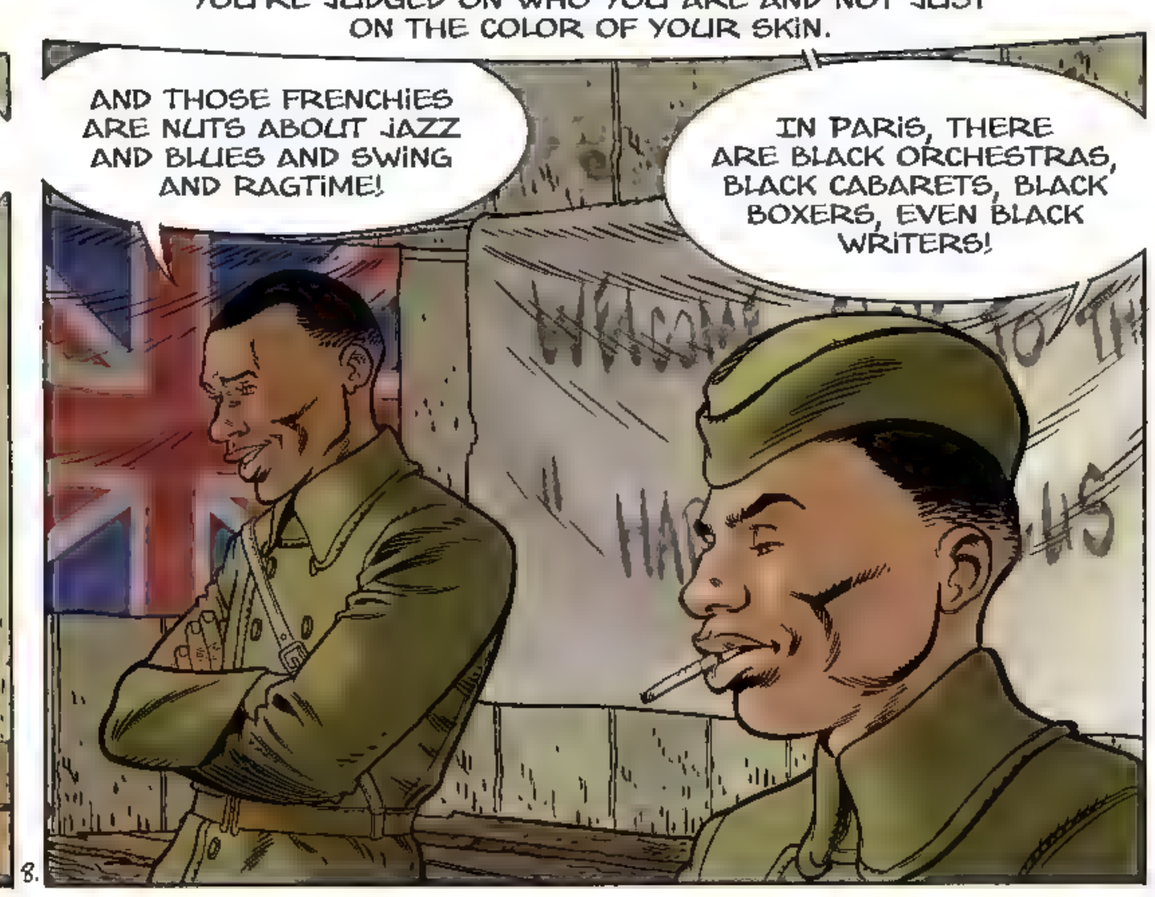
DAMN! WE'RE SAFE!
JIMMY!

THANKS, YANKS! I OWE YOU BOTH ONE!
YUP! AND WE KNOW JUST WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR US...


FOR BESSIE, FROM EUGENE BULLARD
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! DID MISTER BULLARD REALLY SIGN THIS? JUST FOR LITTLE OL' ME?!
HE SURE DID, BESSIE. HONEST TO GOD!



I TELL YOU, WE WERE SORRY TO LEAVE. IN FRANCE, WE CAN TALK TO WHITE FOLKS WITHOUT BEING TREATED LIKE DIRT. WE COULD EVEN CHAT UP PRETTY FRENCH GIRLS IN A BAR!
THERE WERE BLACK TROOPS FROM ALL THE FRENCH COLONIES, AND THEY WON MEDALS FOR BRAVERY!


YOU KNOW WHAT, MOM, FRANCE REALLY IS A LAND OF LIBERTY. YOU'RE JUDGED ON WHO YOU ARE AND NOT JUST ON THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN.
AND THOSE FRENCHIES ARE NUTS ABOUT JAZZ AND BLUES AND SWING AND RAGTIME!
IN PARIS, THERE ARE BLACK ORCHESTRAS, BLACK CABARETS, BLACK BOXERS, EVEN BLACK WRITERS!

WELL, THAT'S ALL VERY NICE, BUT YOU BOYS AREN'T OFF IN FRANCE ANYMORE!
YOU'LL NEED TO FIND YOURSELVES JOBS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, MOM. WE ALREADY DID!

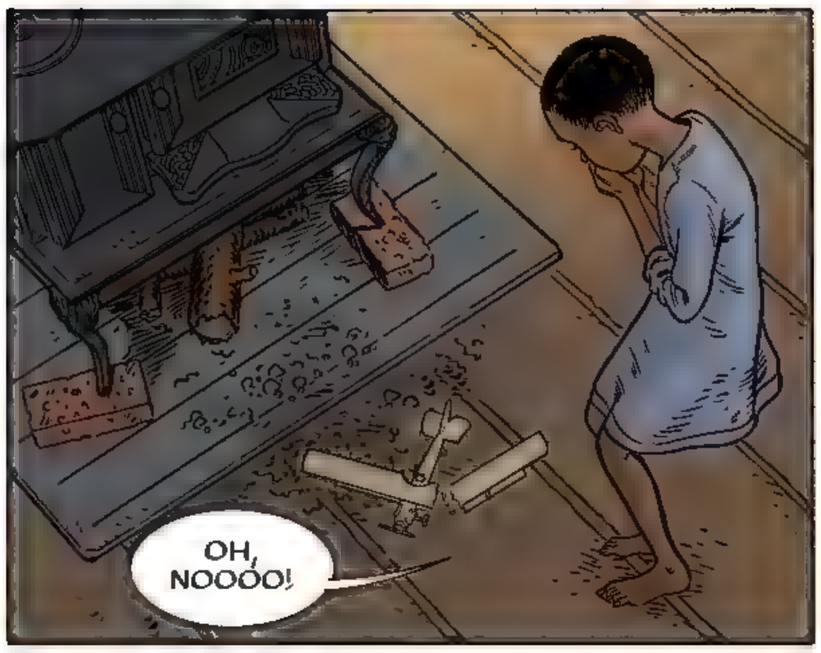
WE'RE GOING TO CHICAGO! THERE'S A GUY IN OUR REGIMENT CALLED OLLIE PELAZZA, WHO WORKS FOR THE PULLMAN CAR COMPANY. HE PROMISED TO GET ME A JOB!

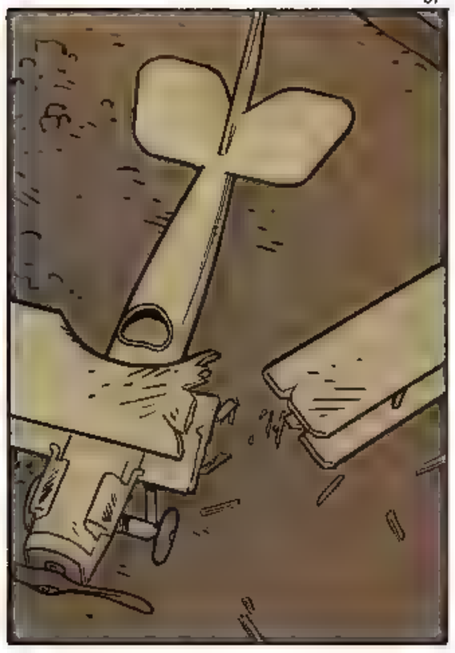
PULLMAN?! NO KIDDING! ON ONE OF THOSE FANCY RAILROAD CARS?

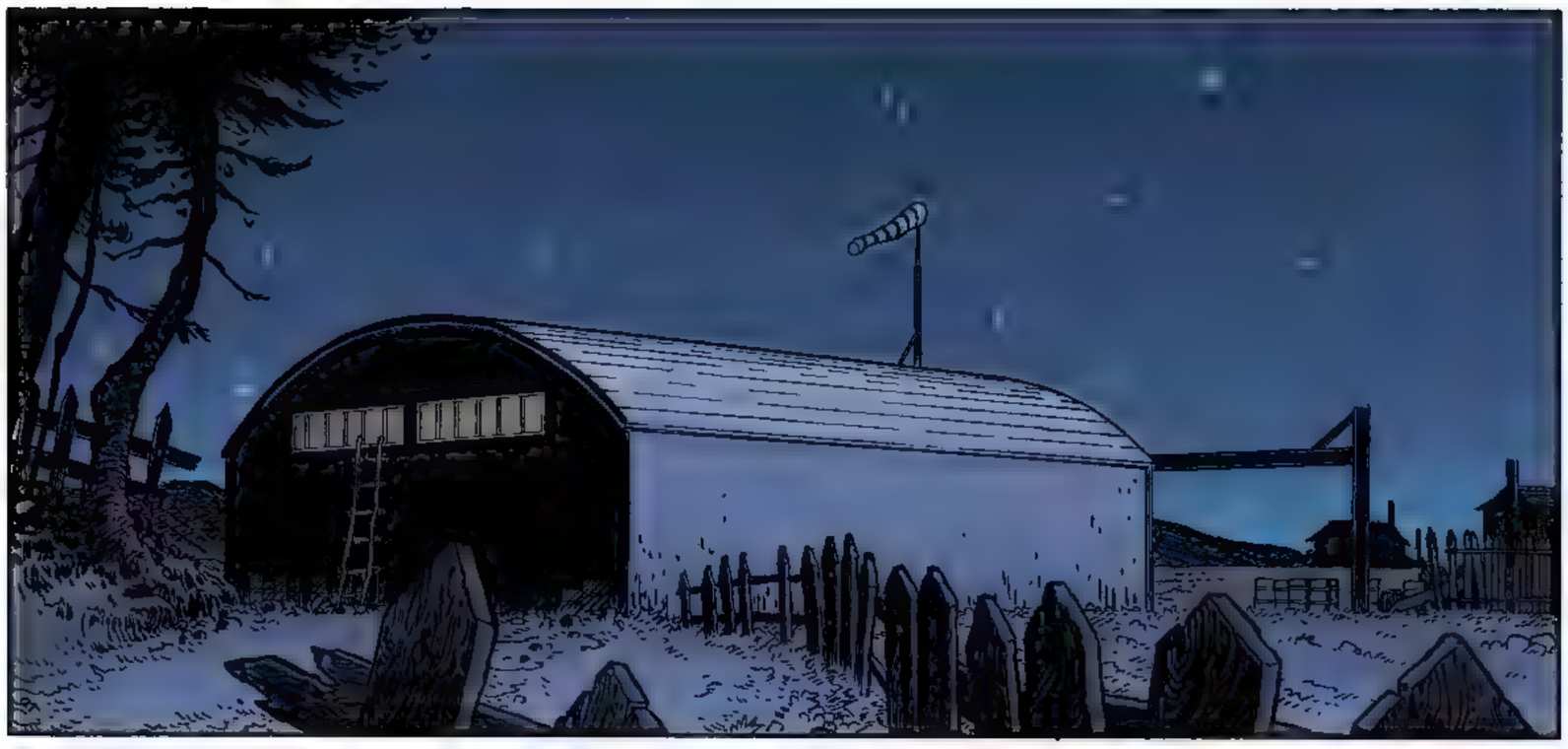
AND A PAL OF MINE WORKS FOR THIS FILTHY RICH GUY CALLED ALFONSO, WHO'S LOOKING FOR A NEW COOK!

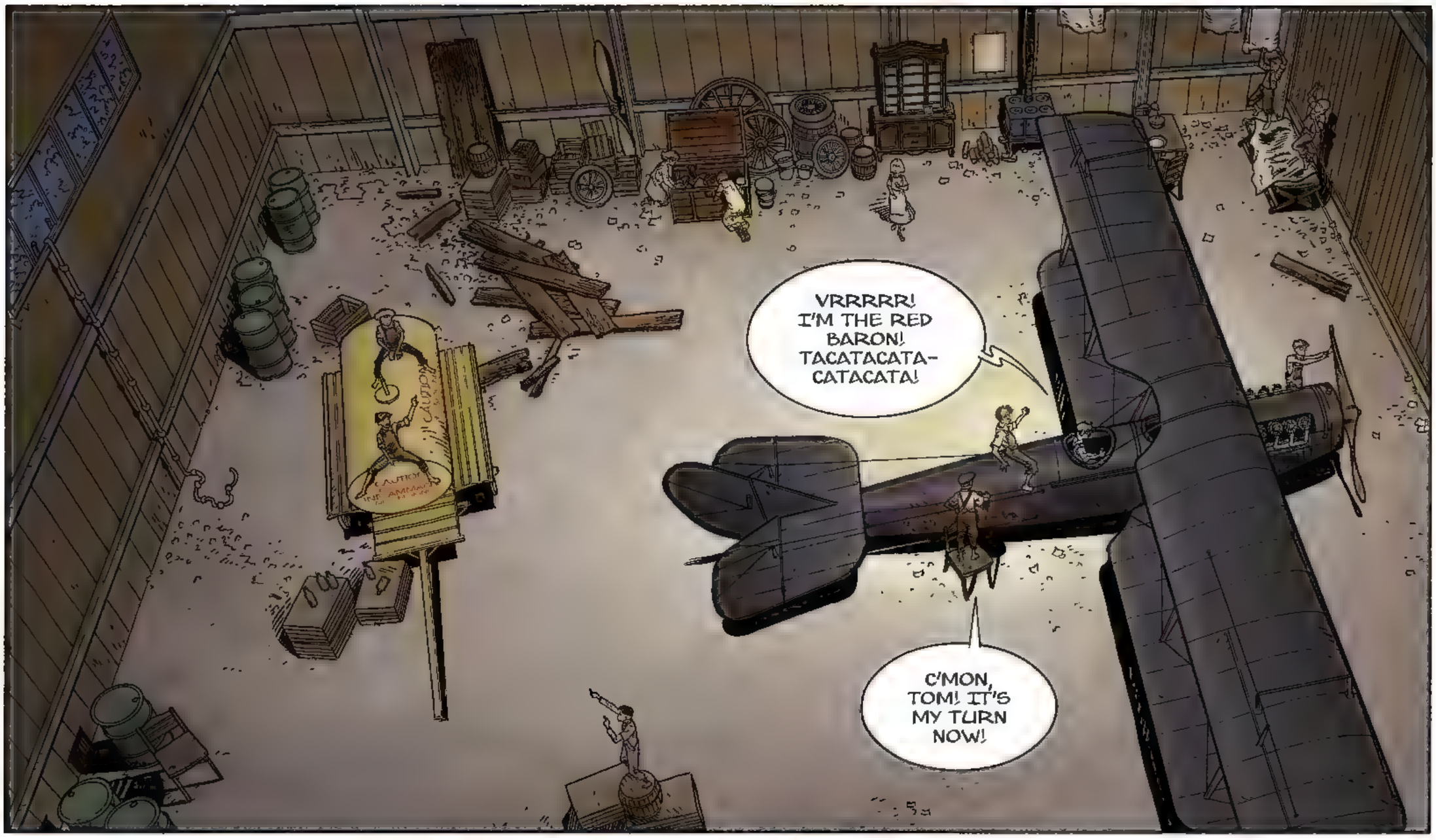
HALLELUJAH! AT LAST, THIS FAMILY IS HAVING SOME LUCK!
PRAISE THE LORD! I'M JUST SO, SO PROUD OF BOTH MY BOYS!

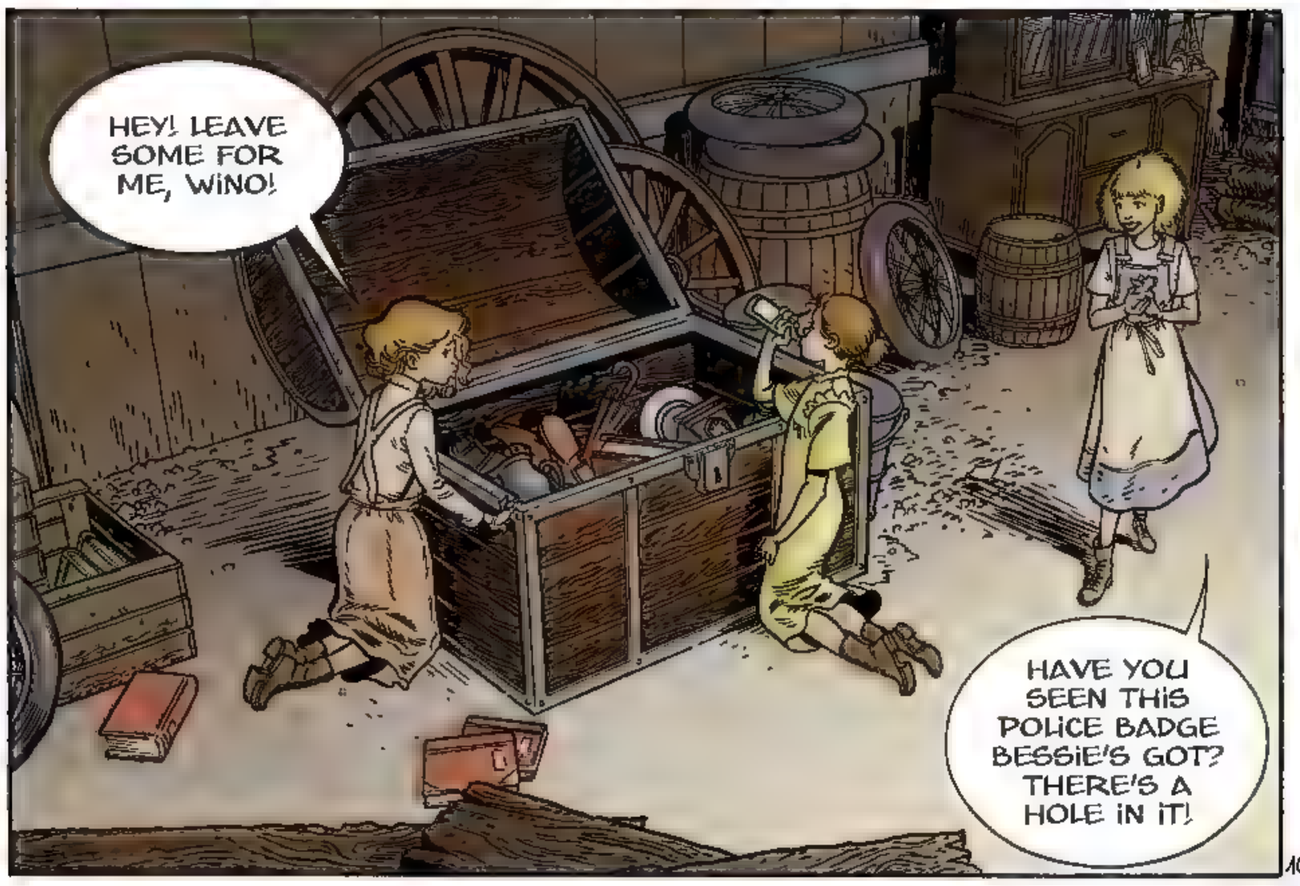
ONE DAY, WHEN I'M A PILOT LIKE BULLARD, MAMA WILL BE JUST AS PROUD OF ME.


OH, NOOOO!

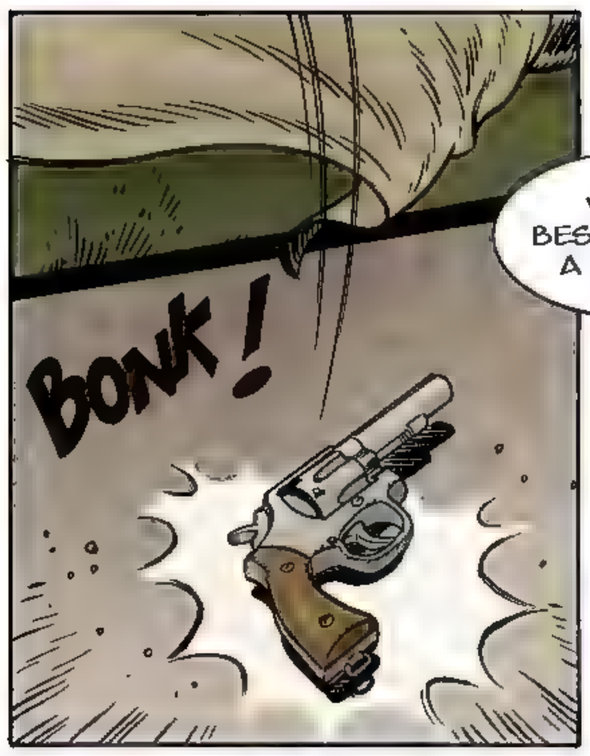


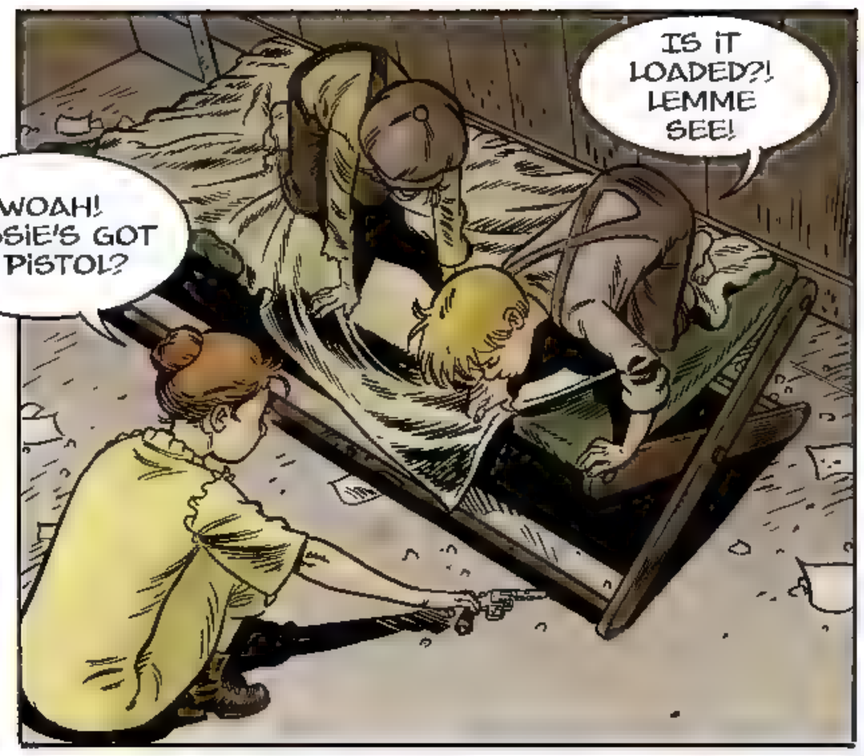


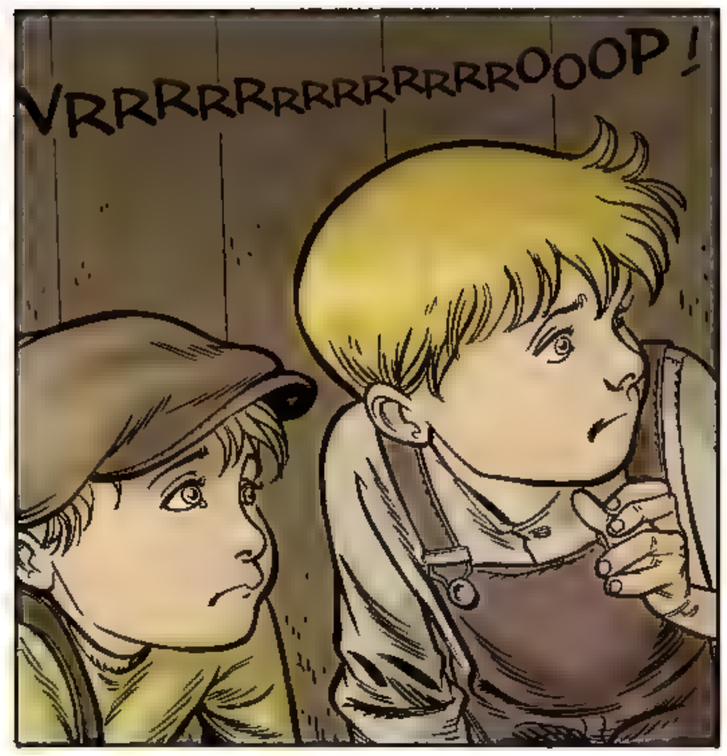

VRRRRR! I'M THE RED BARON! TACATACATA-CATACATA!
C'MON, TOM! IT'S MY TURN NOW!

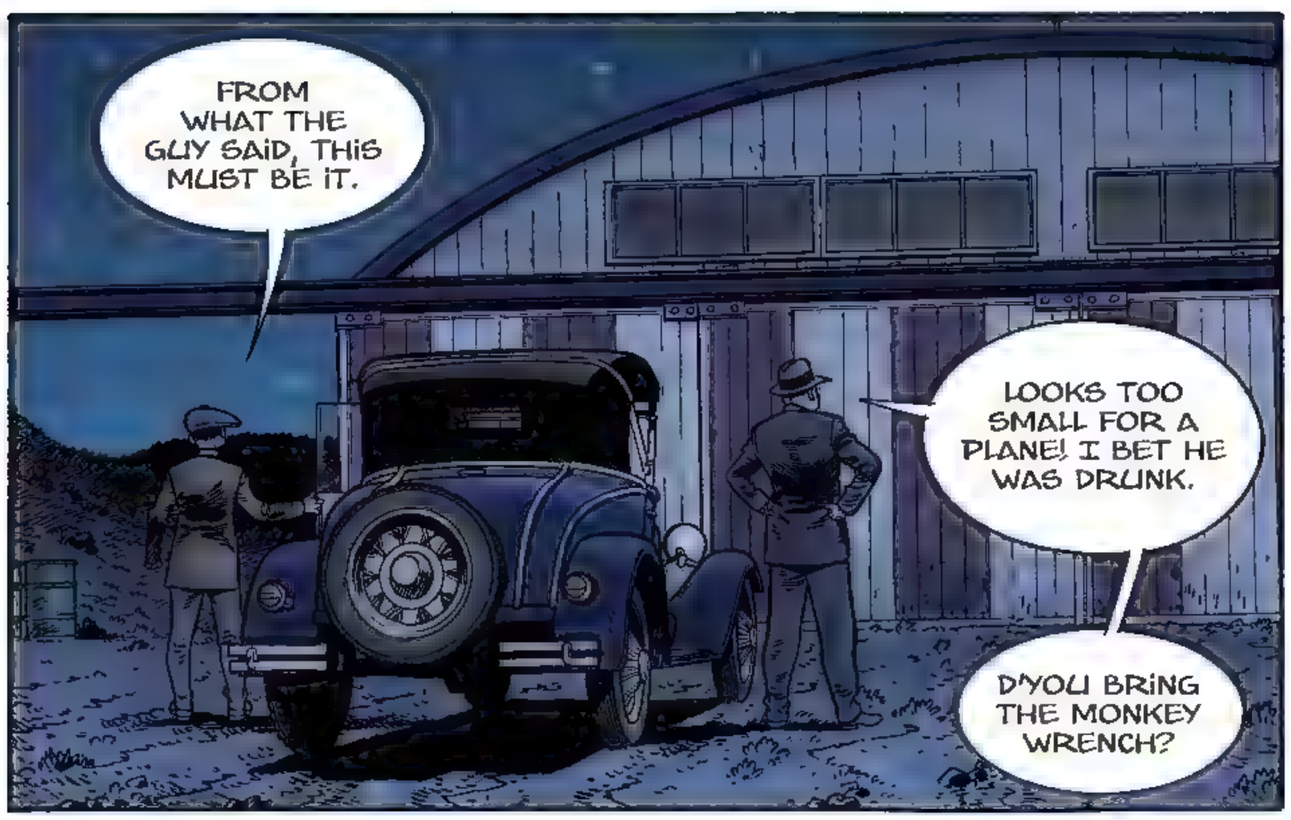

HEY! LEAVE SOME FOR ME, WINO!
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS POLICE BADGE BESSIE'S GOT? THERE'S A HOLE IN IT!

ALAN! WALLY! YOU STOP THAT RIGHT NOW! BESSIE'LL BE MAD IF YOU BREAK HER COT!
C'MON, PATTY! WE'RE JUST GOOFIN'!

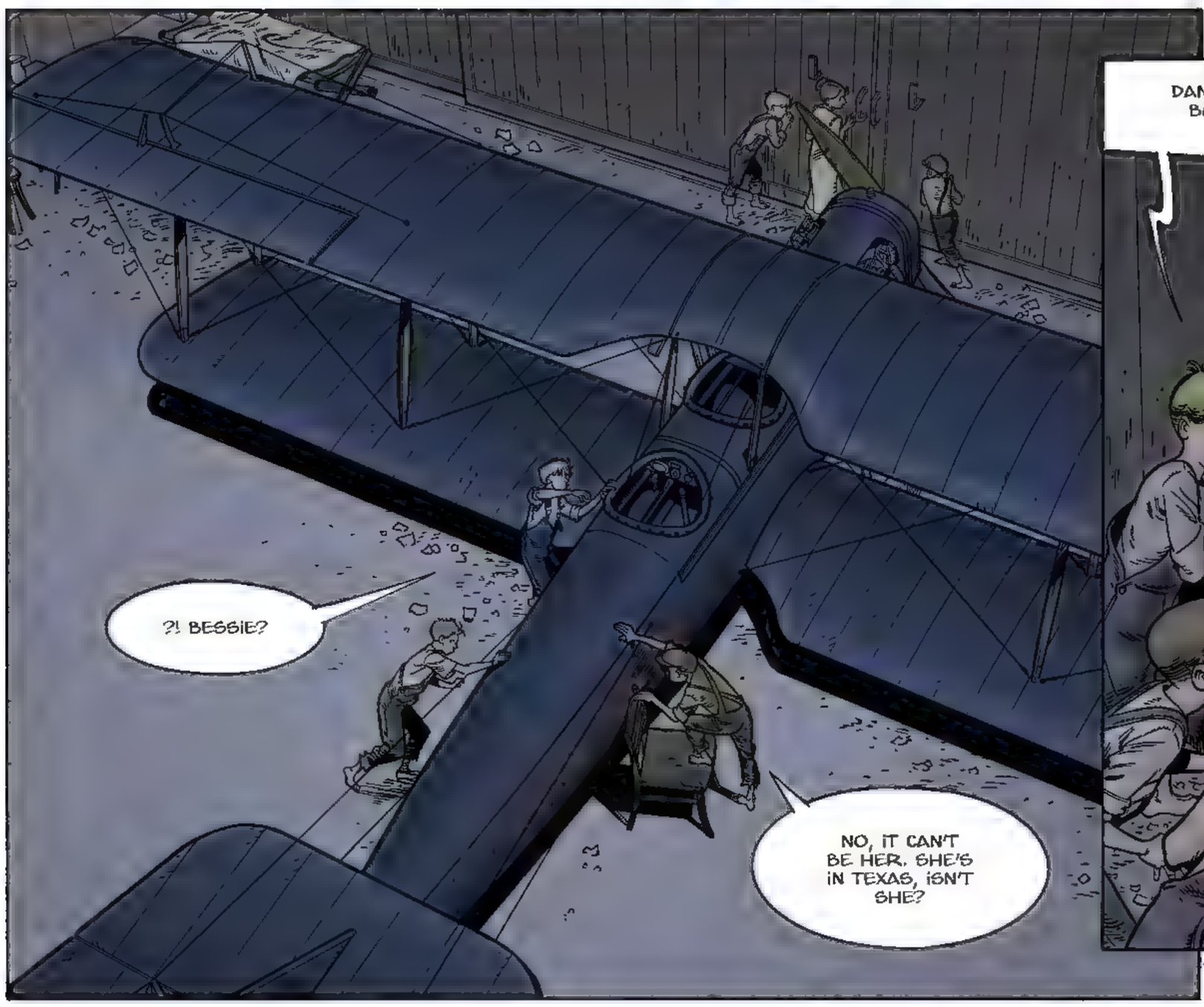

BONK!


WOAH! BESSIE'S GOT A PISTOL?
IS IT LOADED?! LEMME SEE!


VRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRROOOP!


FROM WHAT THE GUY SAID, THIS MUST BE IT.
LOOKS TOO SMALL FOR A PLANE! I BET HE WAS DRUNK.
D'YOU BRING THE MONKEY WRENCH?

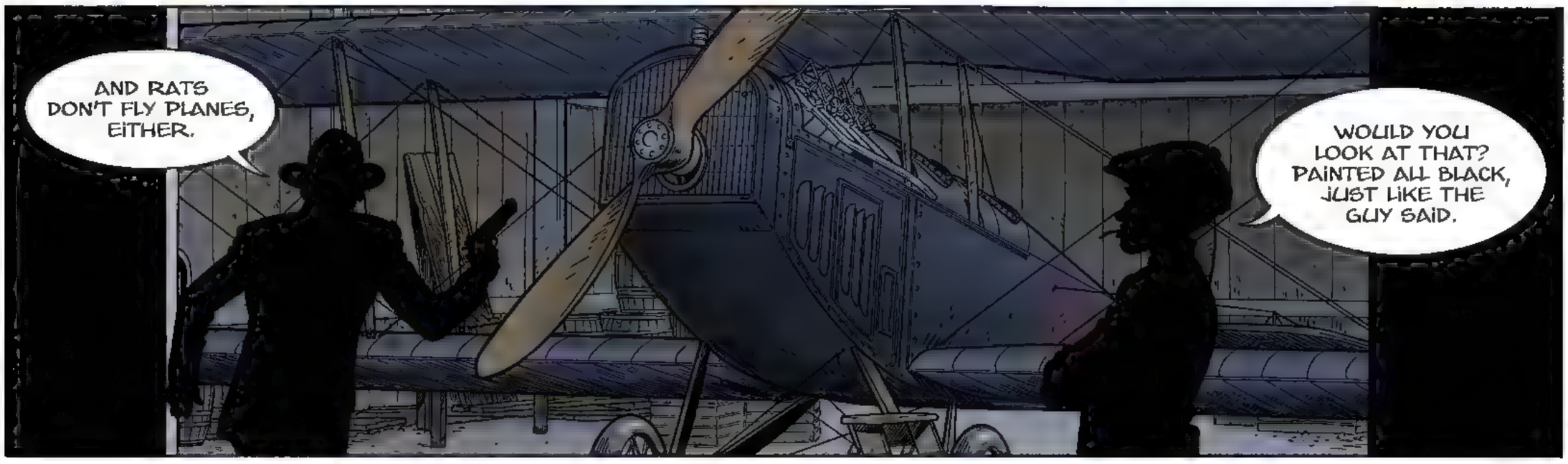
IT'S PADLOCKED. C'MON, HOMER, LET'S FORGET IT.
I'M SURE I SAW A LIGHT ON IN THERE.


?! BESSIE?
NO, IT CAN'T BE HER. SHE'S IN TEXAS, ISN'T SHE?

DAMN! I DUNNO WHO THAT IS OUTSIDE, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE TRYIN' TO BUST OPEN THE PADLOCK!
THEY'RE BREAKING IN! THERE'S NO TIME TO GET OUT. WE JUST HAVE TO HIDE! EVERYONE GET BEHIND THE FUEL TANK! LET'S GO!

OKAY, SO WHERE'S THE LIGHT, THEN?
SHUT UP, WILL YA! I HEARD NOISES...

PFFF. IT WAS PROBABLY RATS.
RATS CAN'T SWITCH LIGHTS ON AND OFF.

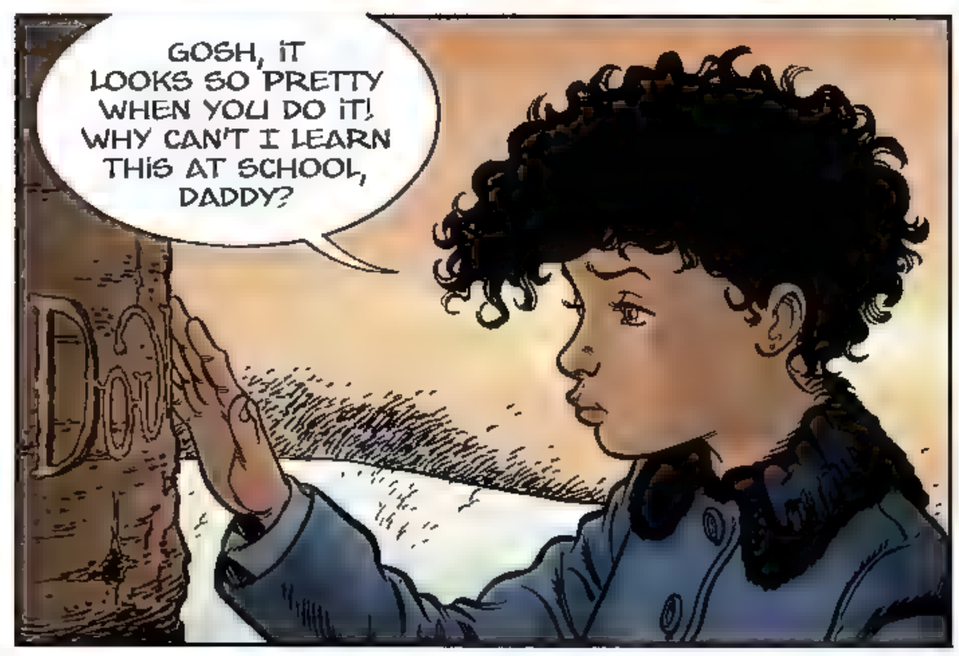

AND RATS DON'T FLY PLANES, EITHER.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? PAINTED ALL BLACK, JUST LIKE THE GUY SAID.

PASS ME THE MONKEY WRENCH, COLBY.
SINCE WHEN DO YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND BUSTING AN ENGINE, HOMER?

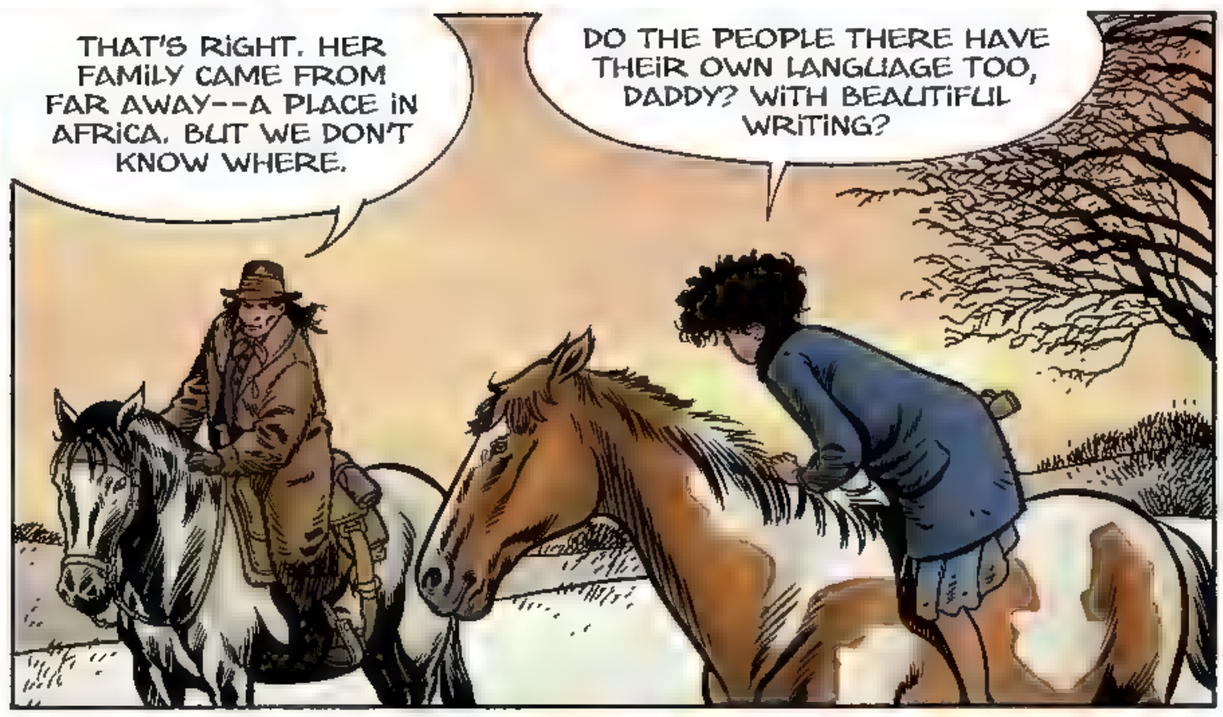
KLONG!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT NIGHT HAWK SAID?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PUT A MONKEY WRENCH IN THE ENGINE.
THEN, IF THERE'S AN INQUIRY, IT'LL LOOK LIKE A MECHANIC FORGOT IT.

SORRY, I--
WELL, WELL...
CAUTION GASOLINE INFLAMMABLE
I FOUND THE RATS.
TOO BAD FOR YOU, YOU LITTLE PESTS!
POW! POW! POW! POW! POW! POW!

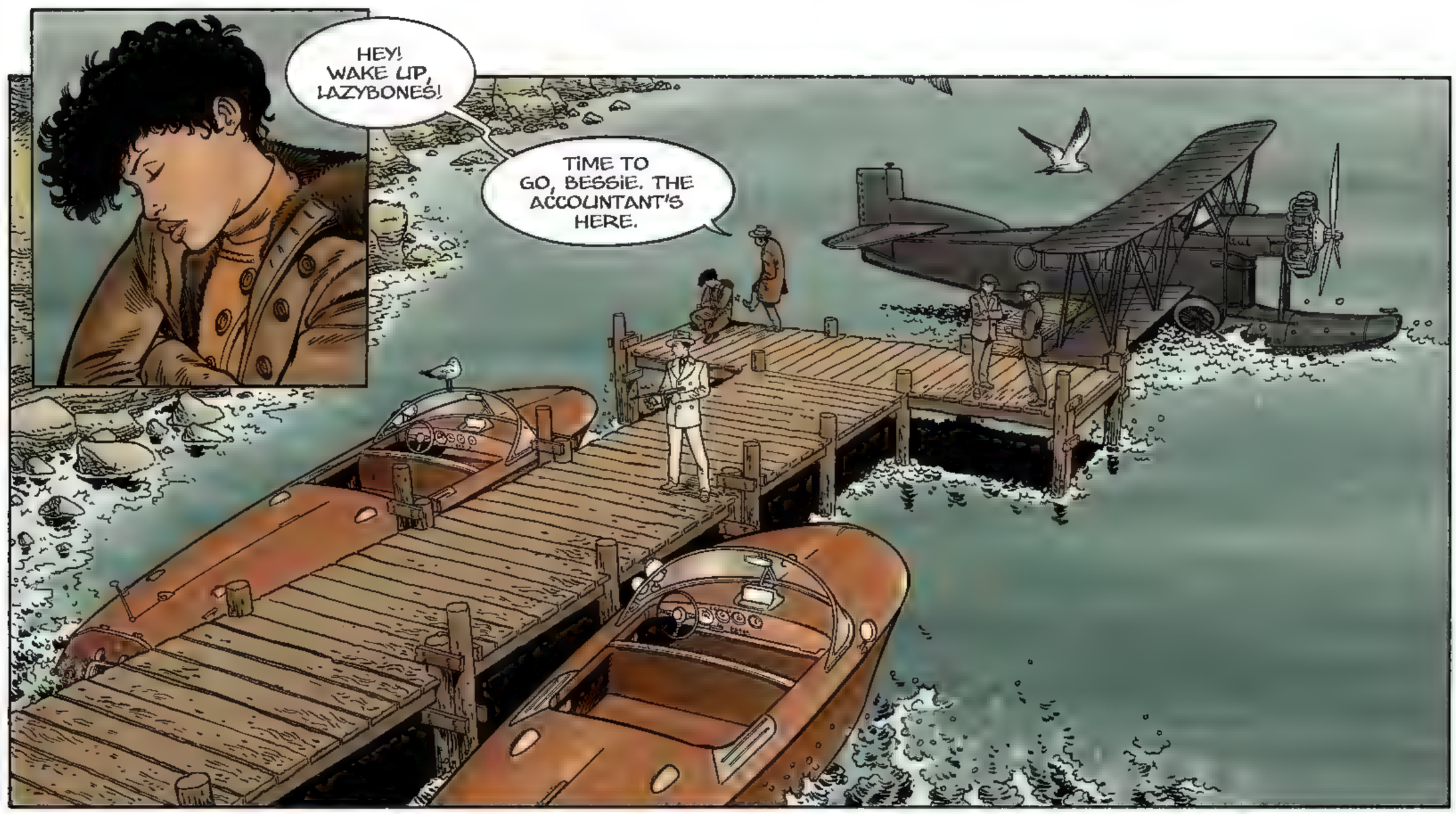
HERE, BESS, LOOK. THIS IS YOUR NICKNAME IN CHEROKEE.

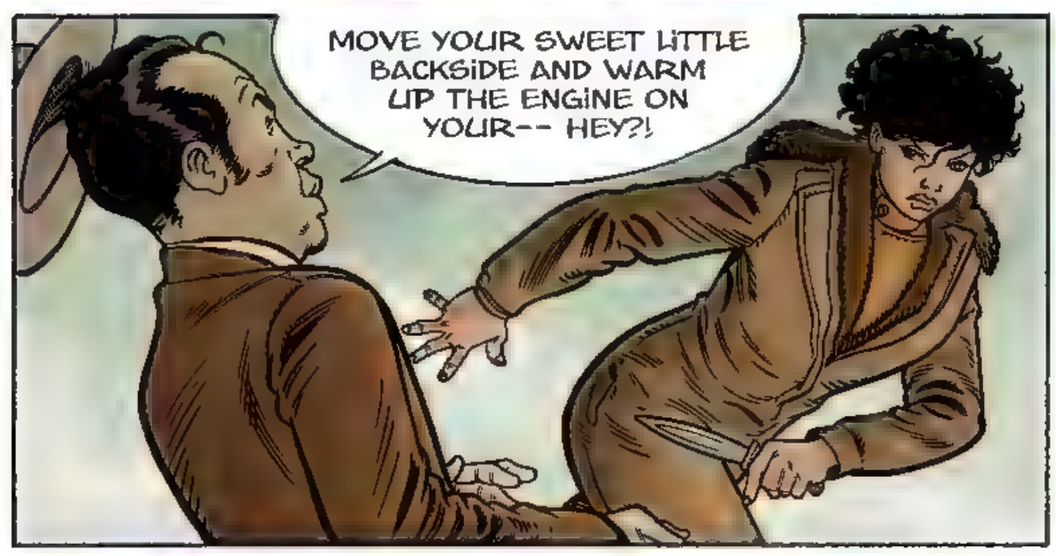

GOSH, IT LOOKS SO PRETTY WHEN YOU DO IT! WHY CAN'T I LEARN THIS AT SCHOOL, DADDY?

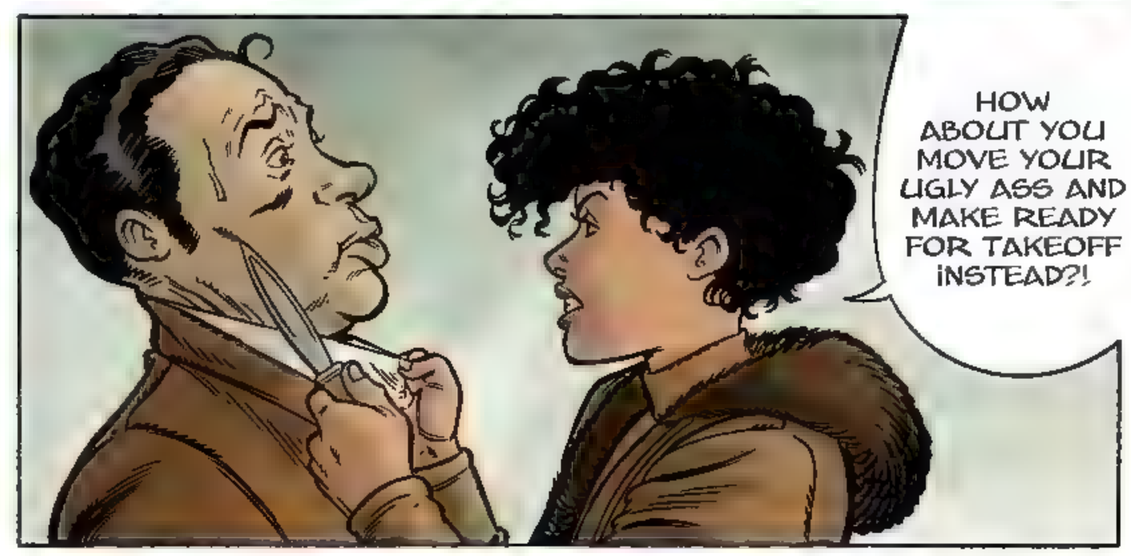
BECAUSE THERE, THEY TEACH YOU WHAT THE WHITE PEOPLE WANT YOU TO KNOW. JUST ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE COTTON.
AND MAMA'S PEOPLE ARE FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN, RIGHT?

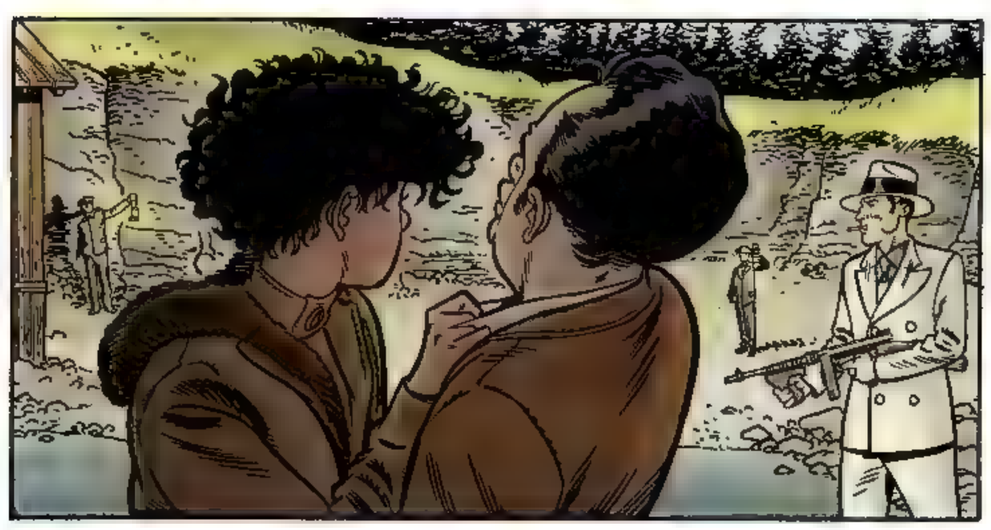

THAT'S RIGHT. HER FAMILY CAME FROM FAR AWAY--A PLACE IN AFRICA. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE.
DO THE PEOPLE THERE HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE TOO, DADDY? WITH BEAUTIFUL WRITING?

I'M SURE THEY DO, BESSIE... UNLESS THE WHITE MEN ERADICATED IT WHEN THEY TOOK YOUR MOM'S PEOPLE AWAY AND MADE THEM SLAVES.
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? I DON'T UNDER--

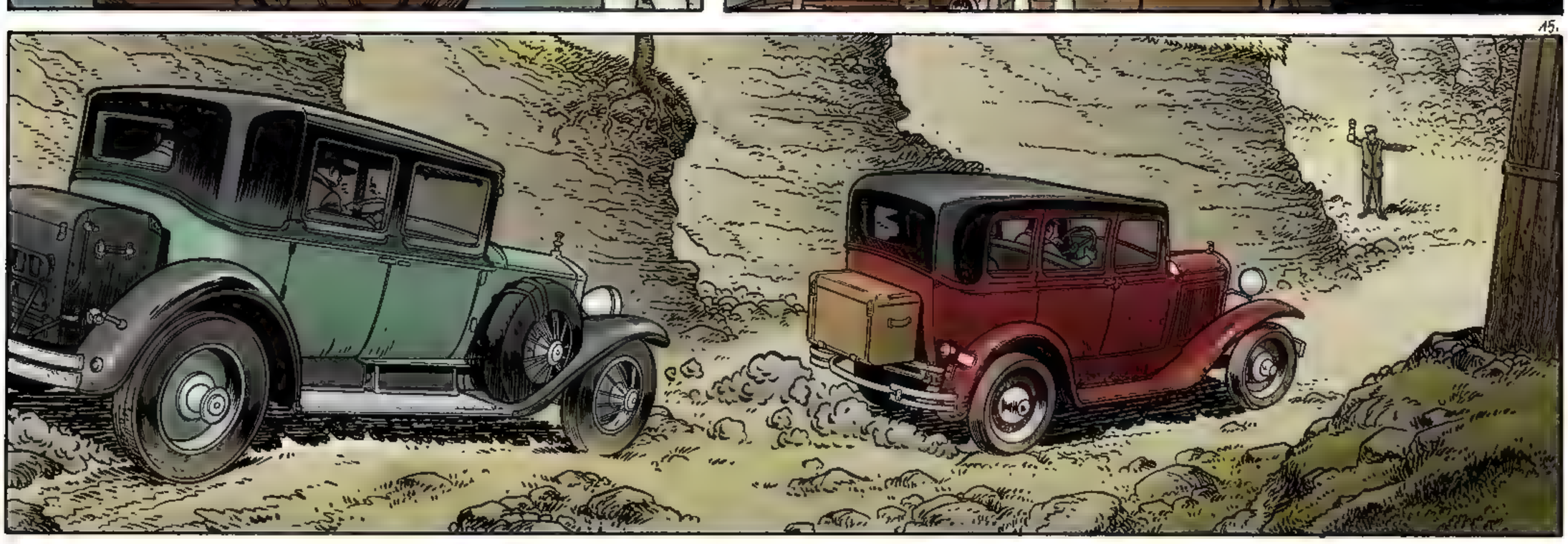

HEY! WAKE UP, LAZYBONES!
TIME TO GO, BESSIE. THE ACCOUNTANT'S HERE.


MOVE YOUR SWEET LITTLE BACKSIDE AND WARM UP THE ENGINE ON YOUR-- HEY?!


HOW ABOUT YOU MOVE YOUR UGLY ASS AND MAKE READY FOR TAKEOFF INSTEAD?!



IT'S OKAY. WE'VE GOT THE ALL-CLEAR FROM THE LIGHTHOUSES. YOU CAN START HER UP, BESSIE.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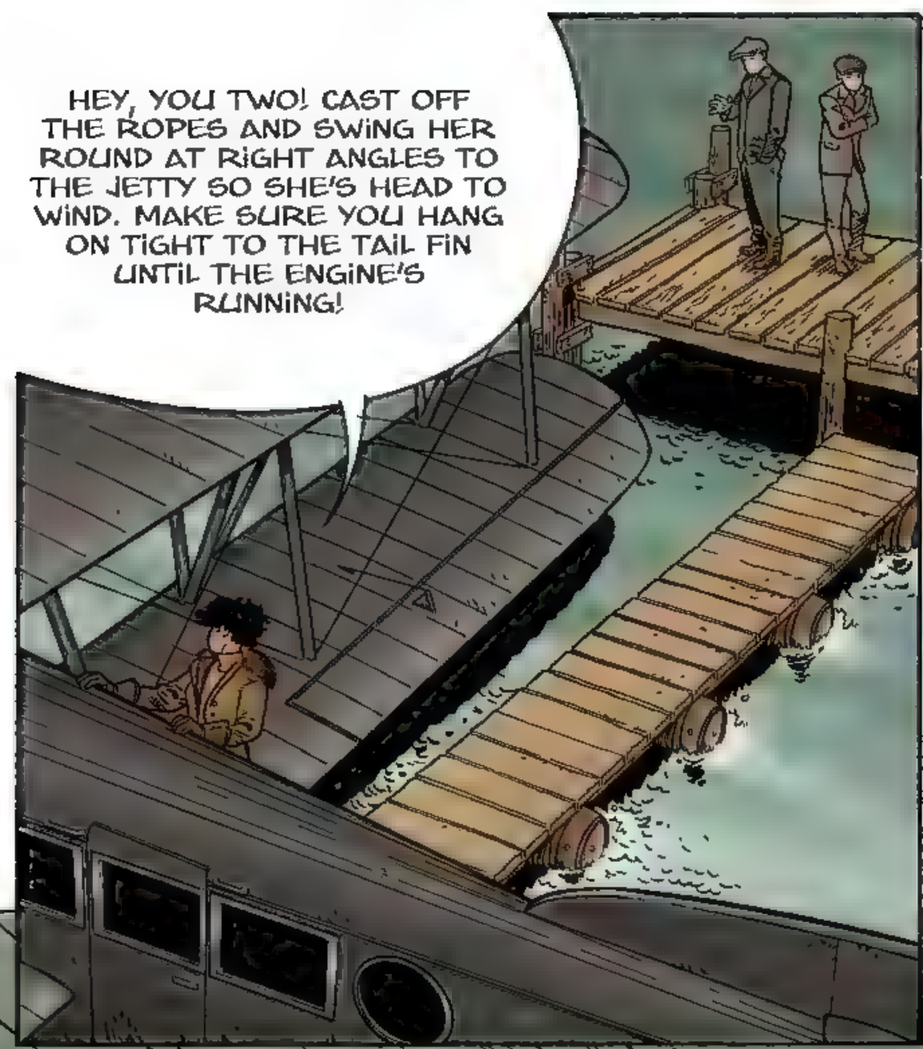
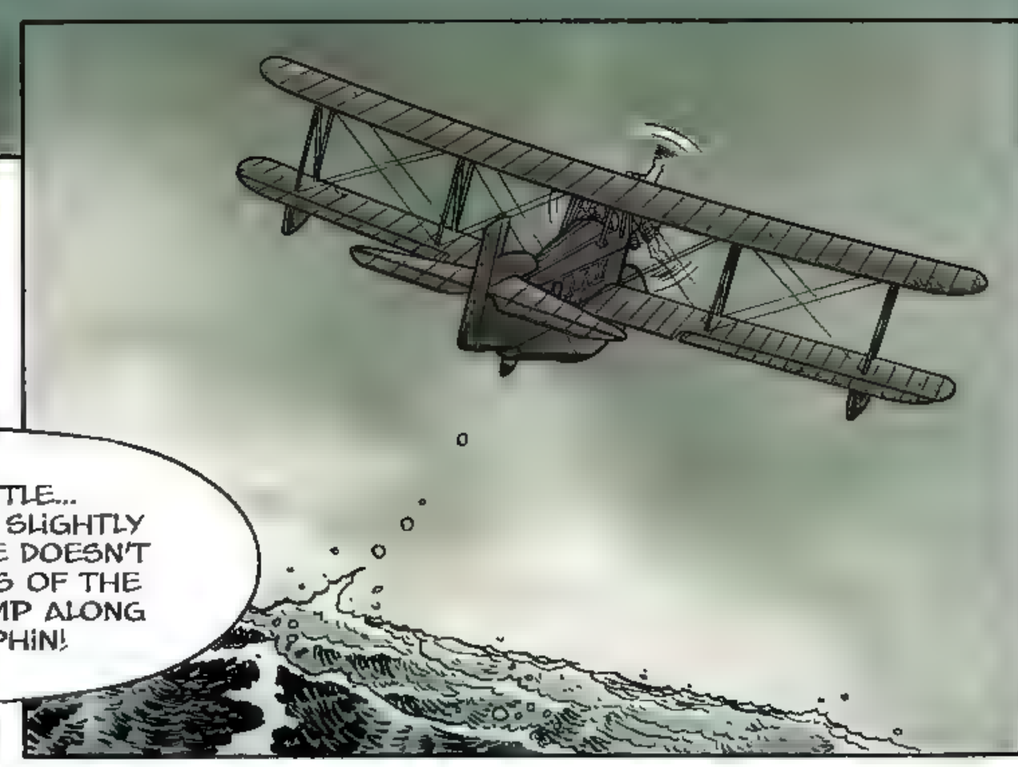


* SMALL ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND WHERE ALCOHOL WAS STILL LEGAL.

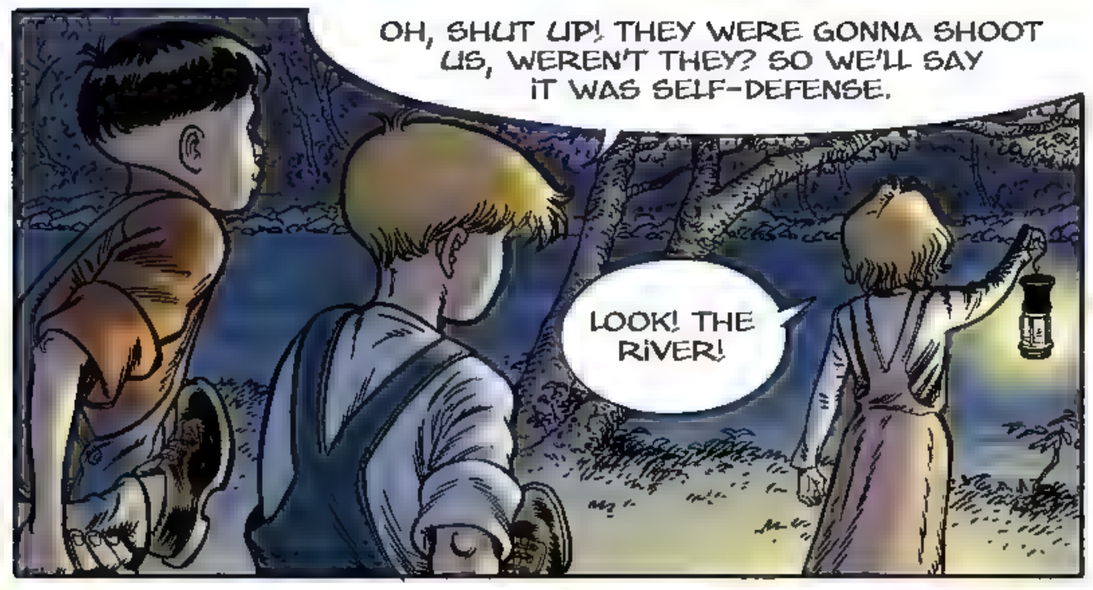
BUT THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM...

...WHICH IS GETTING THIS THING AIRBORNE!



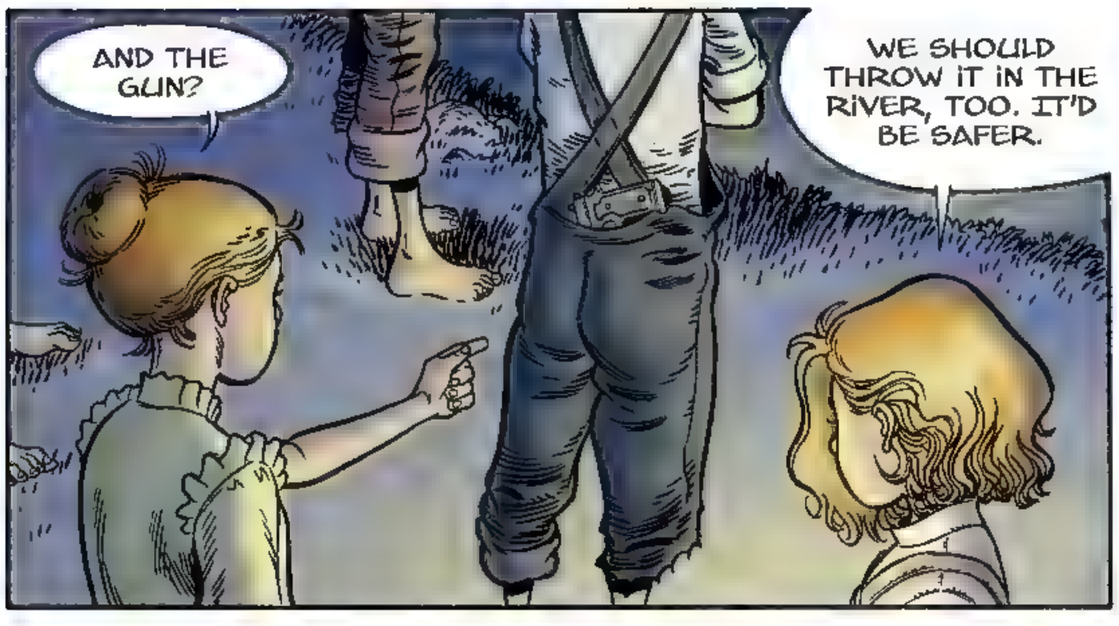
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I KNOW A SECRET SPOT WHERE COUPLES GO FOR A KISS AND A CUDDLE!
SHUT UP! I'M NOT KISSING AND CUDDLING YOU!

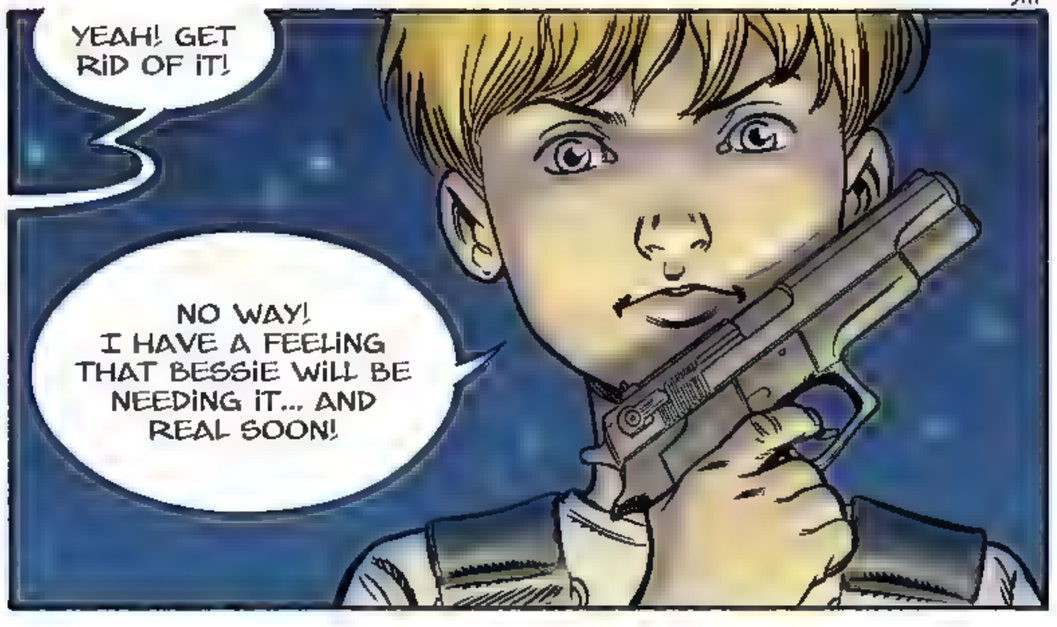
YOU SURE THEY'RE REALLY DEAD, TOM?
NAH, THEY'RE JUST TAKING A NAP! DUMMY.
WHAT IF WE'RE CAUGHT?

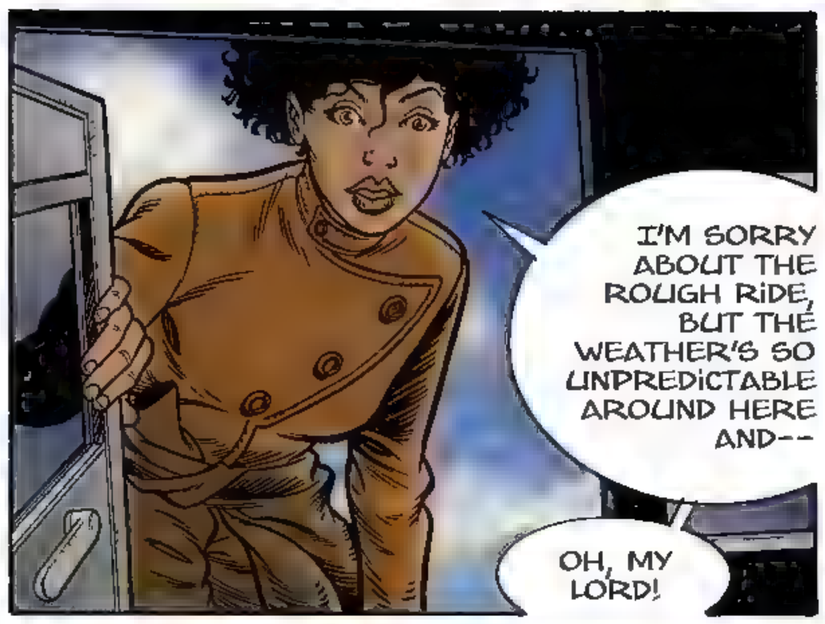

OH, SHUT UP! THEY WERE GONNA SHOOT US, WEREN'T THEY? SO WE'LL SAY IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE.
LOOK! THE RIVER!

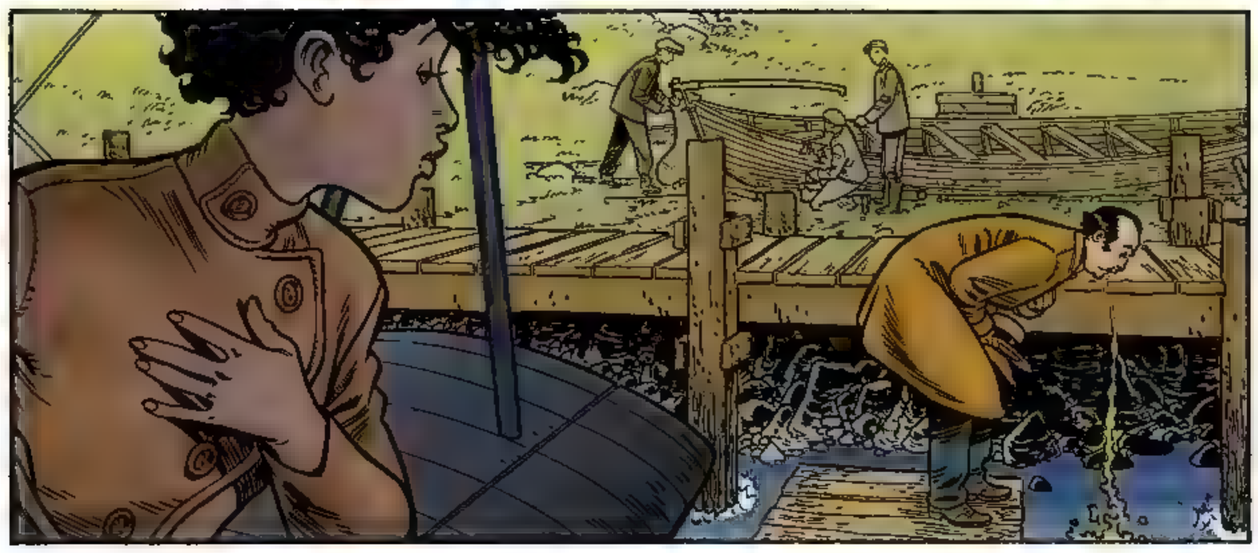
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT "NIGHT" THING THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT, GUYS?
"NIGHT HAWK," I THINK.

YOU KNOW IT?
SURE DON'T. BUT I SAY THIS WHOLE THING STINKS.


AND THE GUN?
WE SHOULD THROW IT IN THE RIVER, TOO. IT'D BE SAFER.

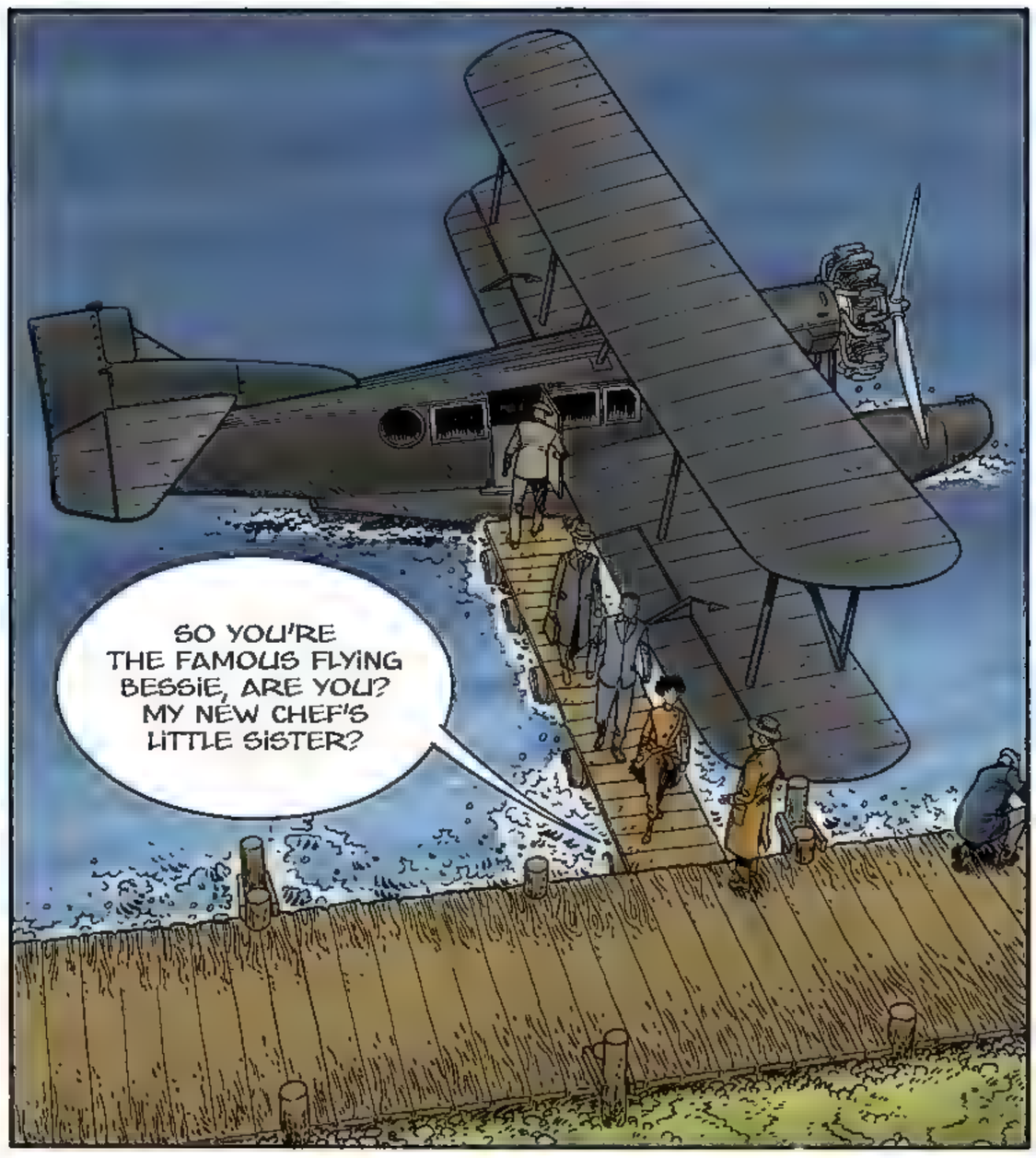

YEAH! GET RID OF IT!
NO WAY! I HAVE A FEELING THAT BESSIE WILL BE NEEDING IT... AND REAL SOON!

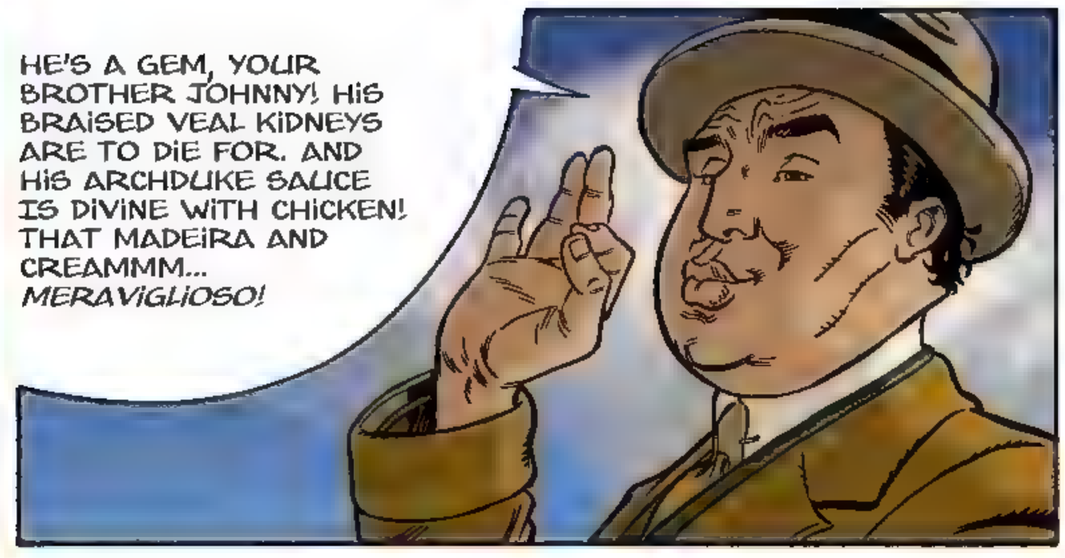




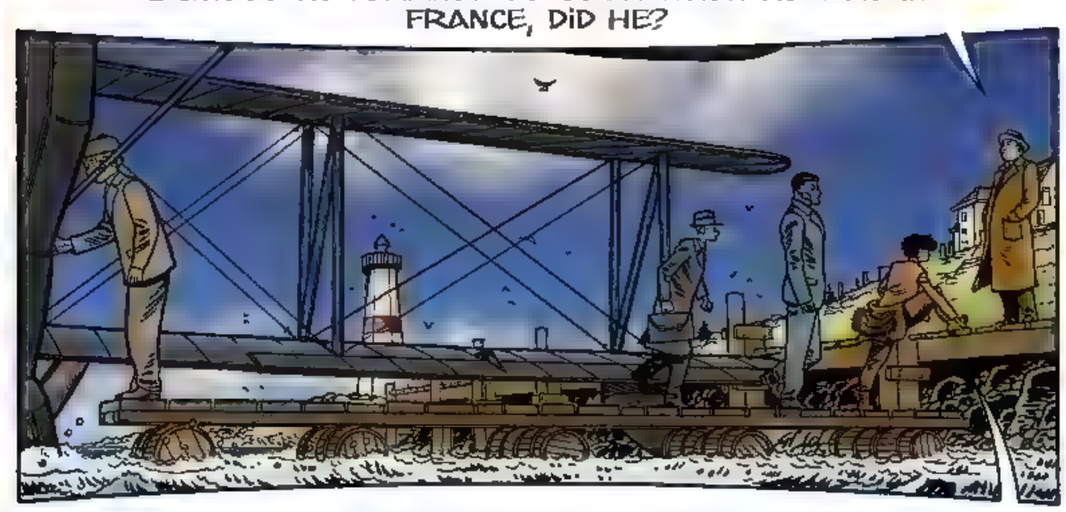
I'M REALLY SORRY YOU GOT THROWN AROUND, MR. CAPONE, BUT YOU SEE, WE RAN INTO A STRONG CROSSWIND AND I HAD TO FLY CRAB-WISE TO MAINTAIN OUR HEADING TO--

MUNDI, REMIND ME TO STOP AT THE SERAFINA IN PORTLAND AGAIN ON THE WAY HOME. I JUST REMEMBERED I FORGOT TO TIP THE RESTAURANT MANAGER!





I GUESS HE LEARNED TO COOK WHEN HE WAS IN FRANCE, DID HE?

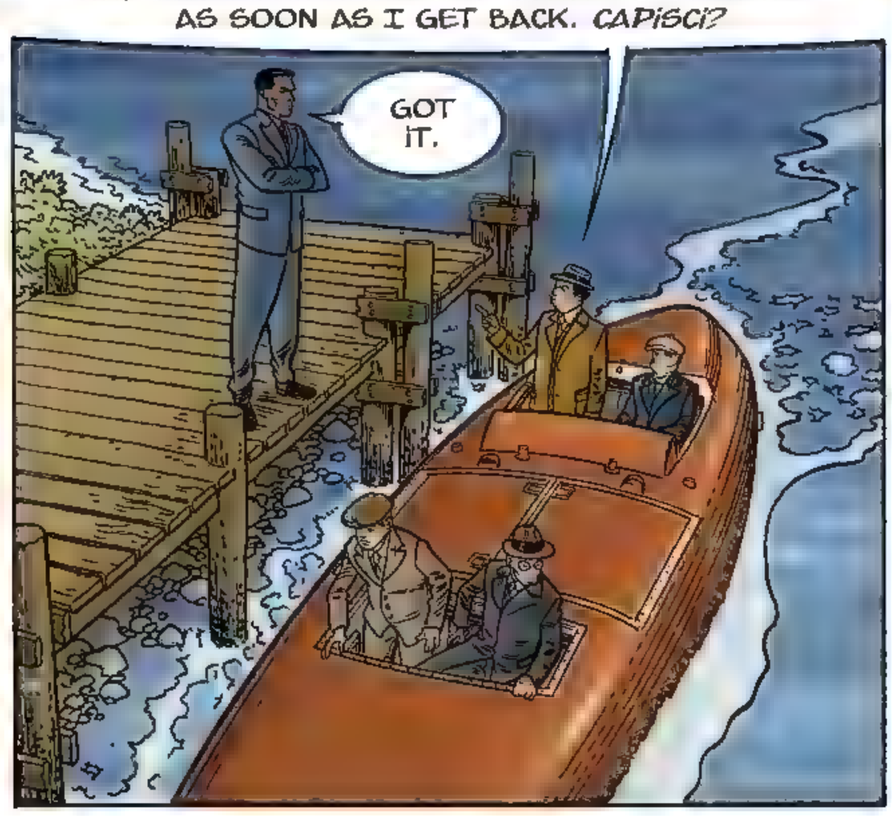


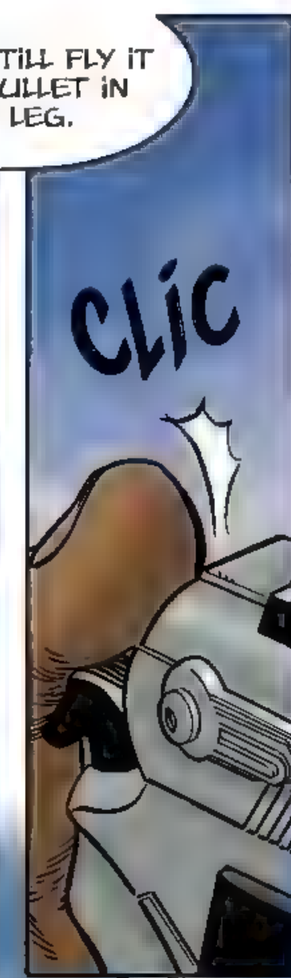
OH, SURE! THEY WERE WHIPPING UP DRIED BOOT-LEATHER STEAK IN MUD SAUCE WITH WET WOOL SOUP AND MUSTARD GAS ON THE SIDE. NO, SIR. NOT A PLACE FOR HAUTE CUISINE.

THEN LET'S GO. IT'S TIME WE TAUGHT THAT LITTLE FROG WHO THINKS HE'S BIGGER THAN AN OX A LESSON HE WON'T FORGET! JUST LIKE IN SHAKESPEARE'S FABLE!

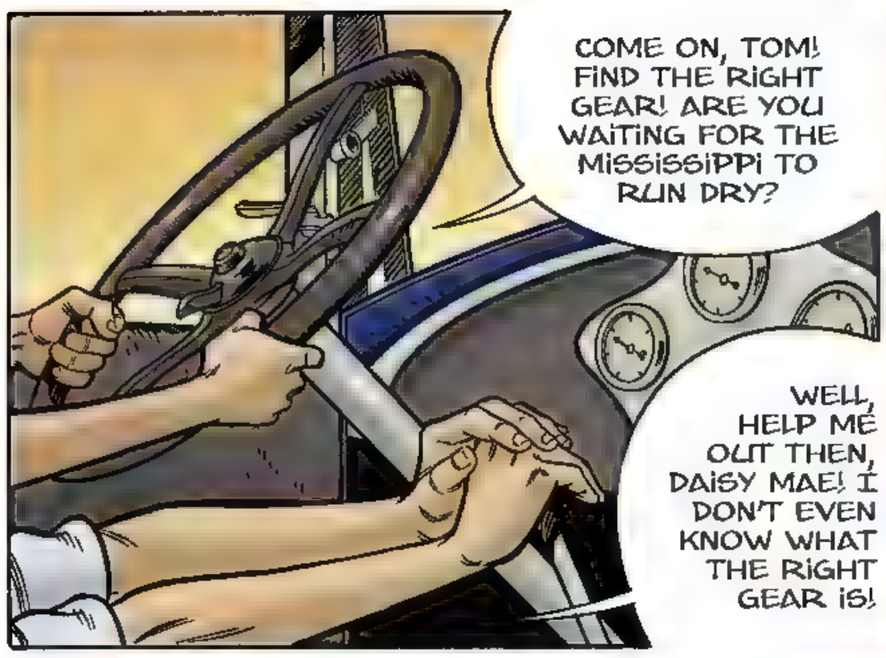
A FACE-TO-FACE CHAT SHOULD PUT THINGS BACK IN PERSPECTIVE FOR HIM!

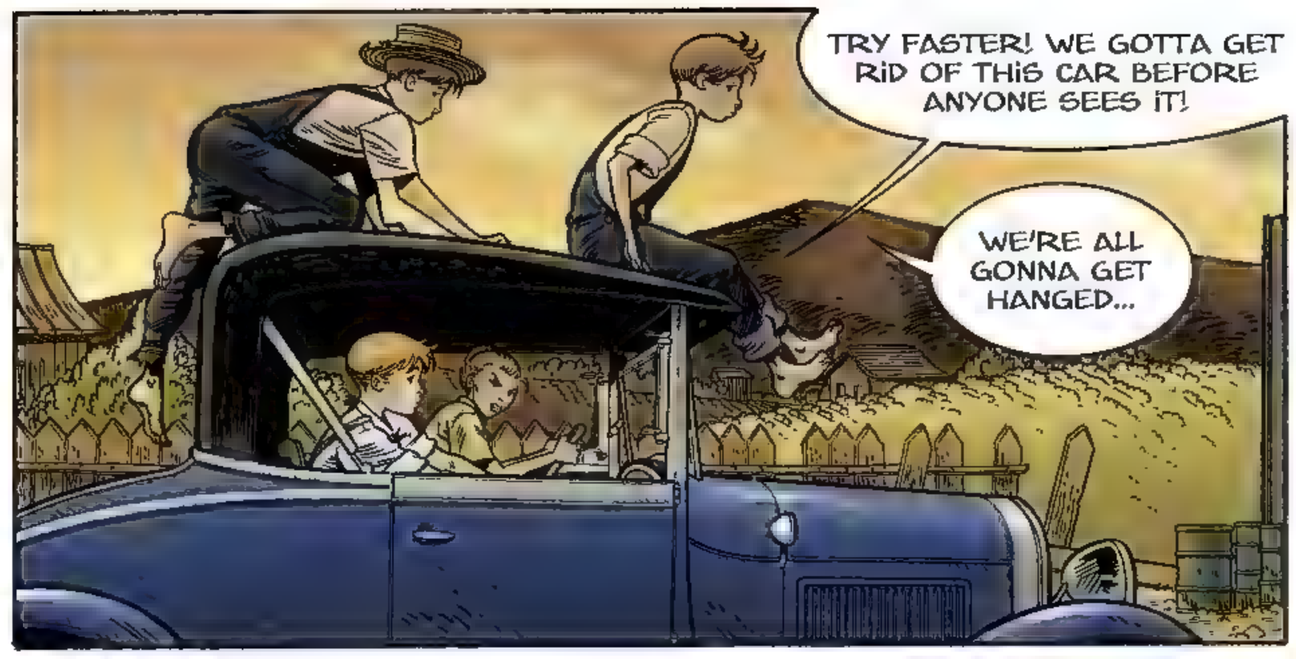
MUNDI, YOU STAY HERE AND LOOK AFTER THE PLANE, OK? AND MAKE SURE IT'S READY TO TAKE OFF AS SOON AS I GET BACK. *CAPISCI?*



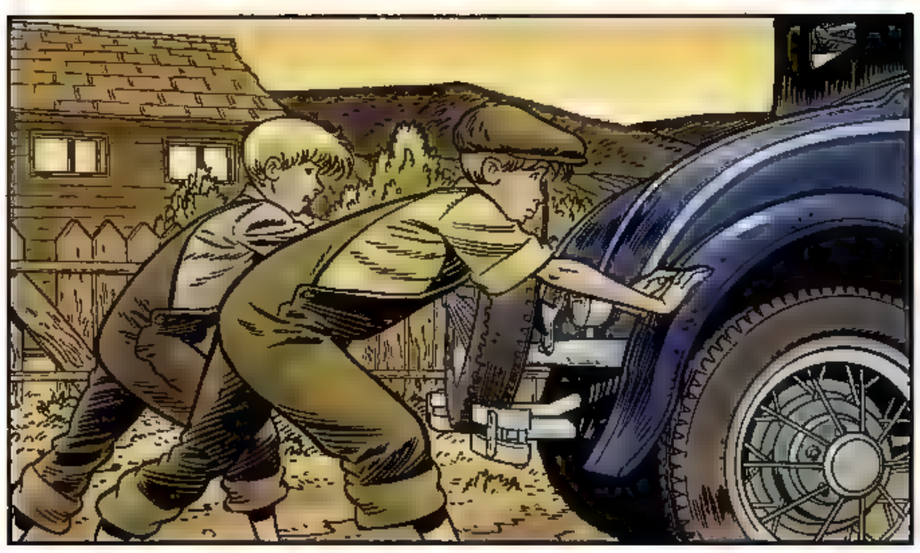


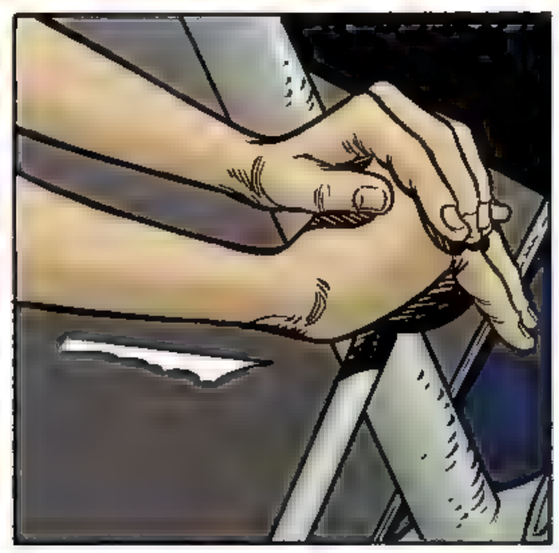
SAY, CAN I BORROW A POT OF PAINT AND A BRUSH?


COME ON, TOM! FIND THE RIGHT GEAR! ARE YOU WAITING FOR THE MISSISSIPPI TO RUN DRY?
WELL, HELP ME OUT THEN, DAISY MAE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT GEAR IS!


TRY FASTER! WE GOTTA GET RID OF THIS CAR BEFORE ANYONE SEES IT!
WE'RE ALL GONNA GET HANGED...

I'LL GET IT! JUST HANG ON! THEN WE CAN PUSH IT INTO THE HANGAR. OUTTA SIGHT, OUTTA MIND!
GO, GO, GO!





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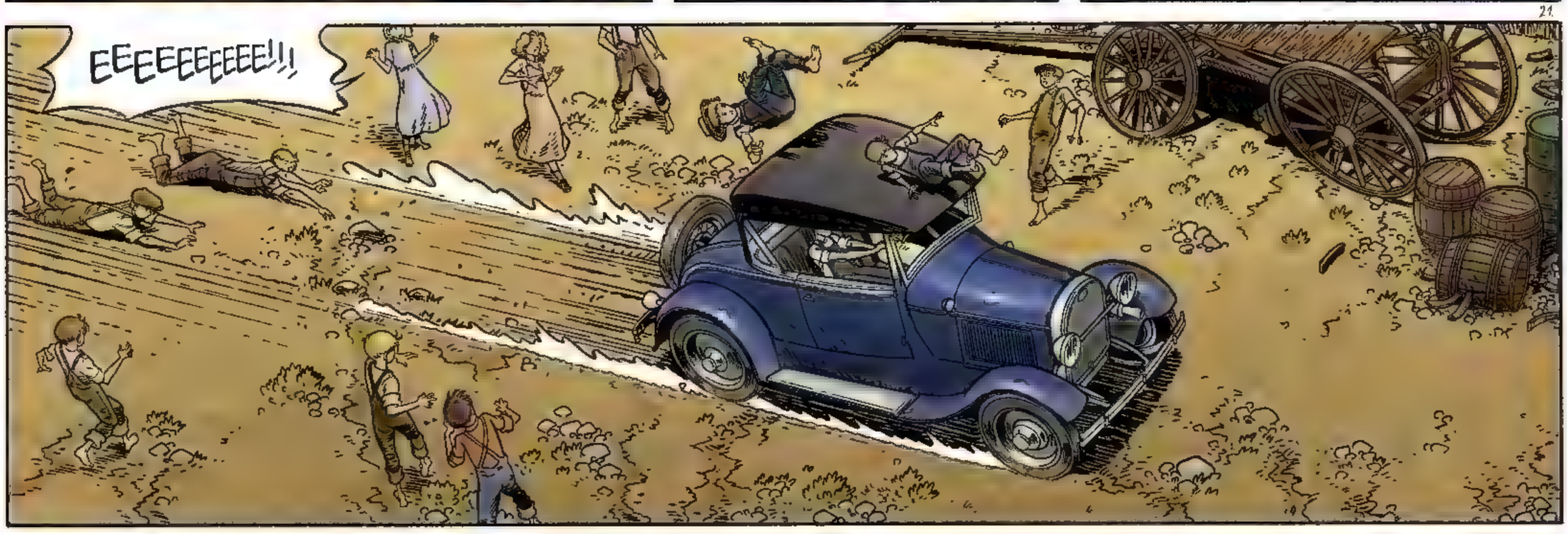
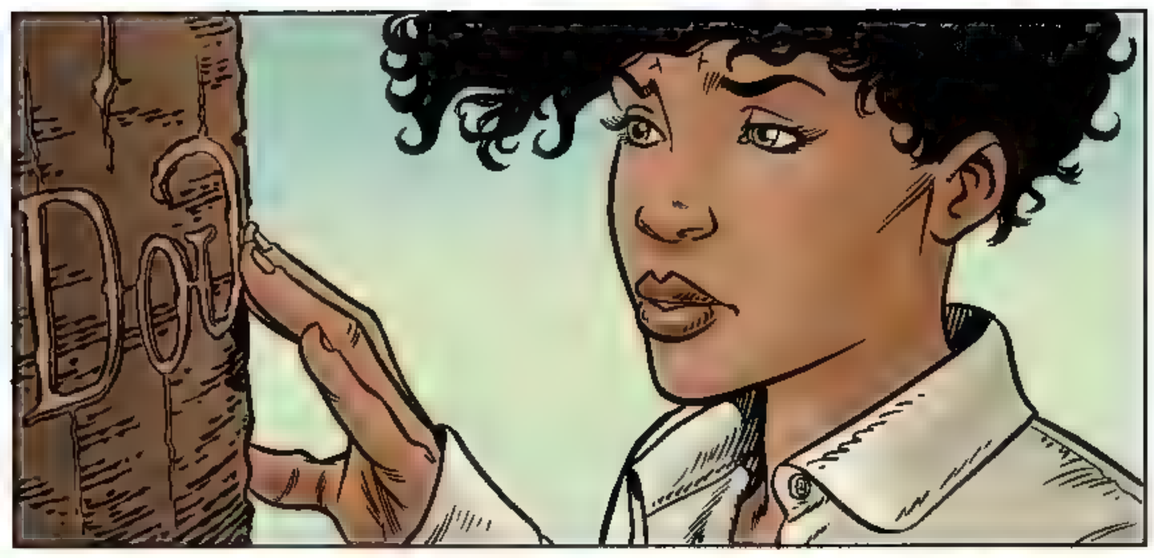

EEEEEEEEEE!!!

DODGAS

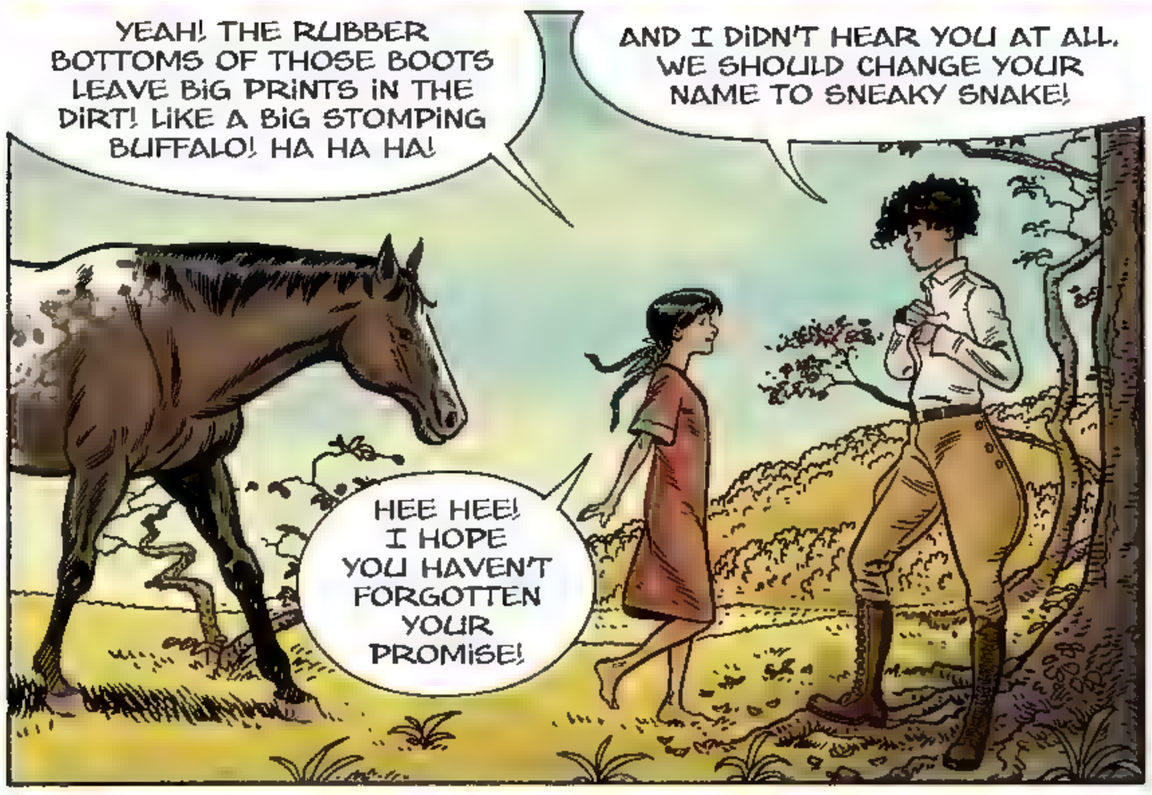


BESSIE! YOU'RE BACK, AT LAST!

KANUNA! HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

IT'S EASY! I JUST FOLLOWED THE TRAIL YOU LEFT BEHIND YOU. YOU'RE NOT HARD TO TRACK AT ALL.
THAT SO?

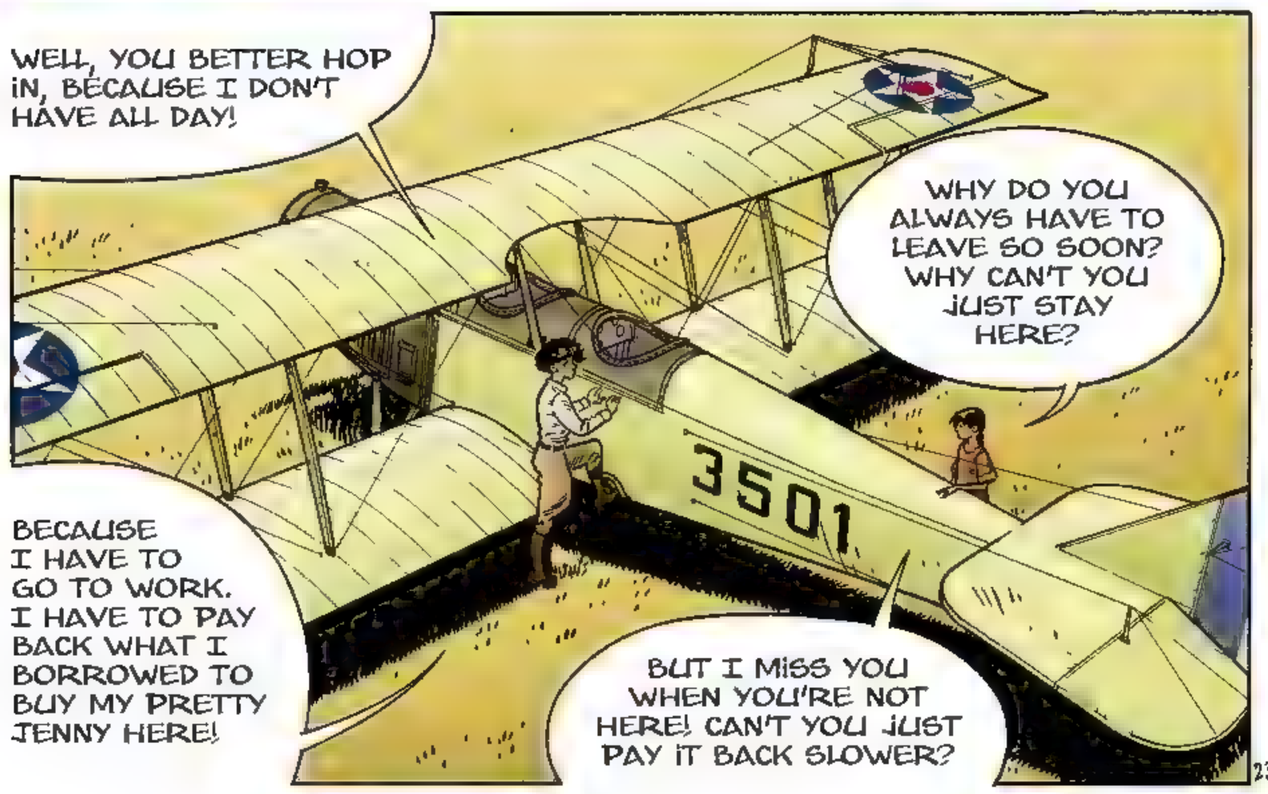
22.


YEAH! THE RUBBER BOTTOMS OF THOSE BOOTS LEAVE BIG PRINTS IN THE DIRT! LIKE A BIG STOMPING BUFFALO! HA HA HA!
AND I DIDN'T HEAR YOU AT ALL. WE SHOULD CHANGE YOUR NAME TO SNEAKY SNAKE!
HEE HEE! I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE!

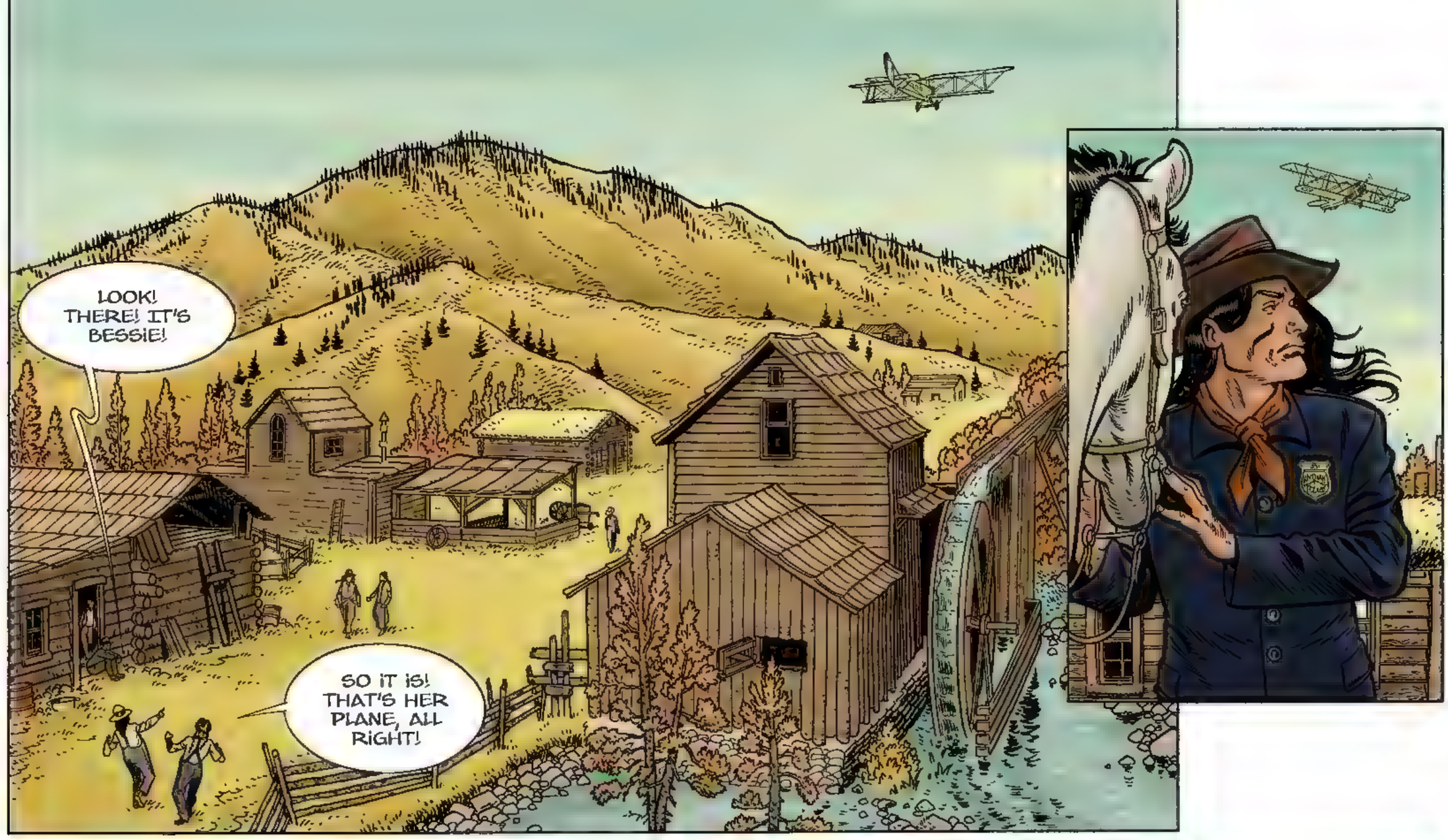
DON'T WORRY, KANUNA! YOU KNOW I ALWAYS KEEP MY PROMISES. WE CAN GO NOW!

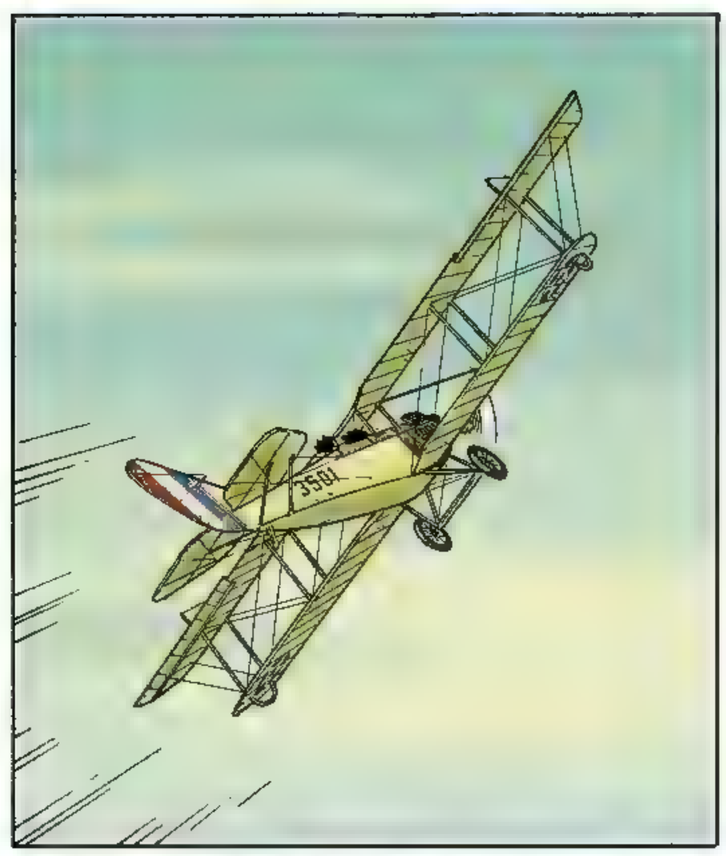
CAN YOU REALLY MAKE THAT THING FLY?
NO! YOU PROMISED! YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME! I WANT TO FLY ON ITS BACK LIKE YOU!
IF YOU'RE TOO SCARED, KANUNA, I CAN ALWAYS TAKE YOU FLYING ANOTHER TIME.
OKAY, THEN... WE'LL DO A LITTLE DANCE WITH THE CLOUDS!
3501

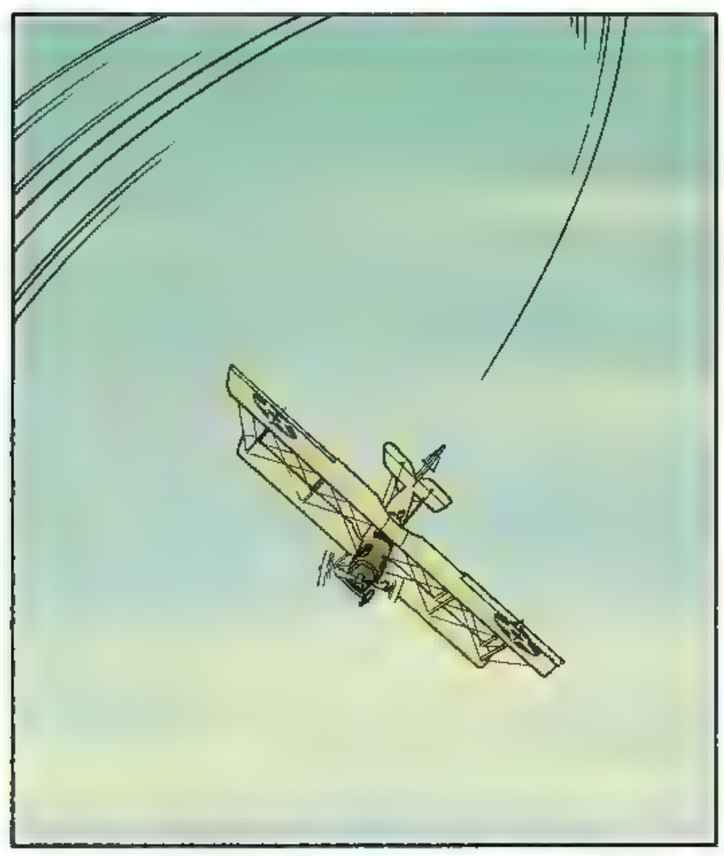
BUT HOW DOES IT WORK? I HAS WINGS, BUT THEY CAN'T FLAP AT ALL! AND IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY FEATHERS...
IT'S ALL STIFF AND COLD! IT'S LIKE A BIG DEAD BIRD!

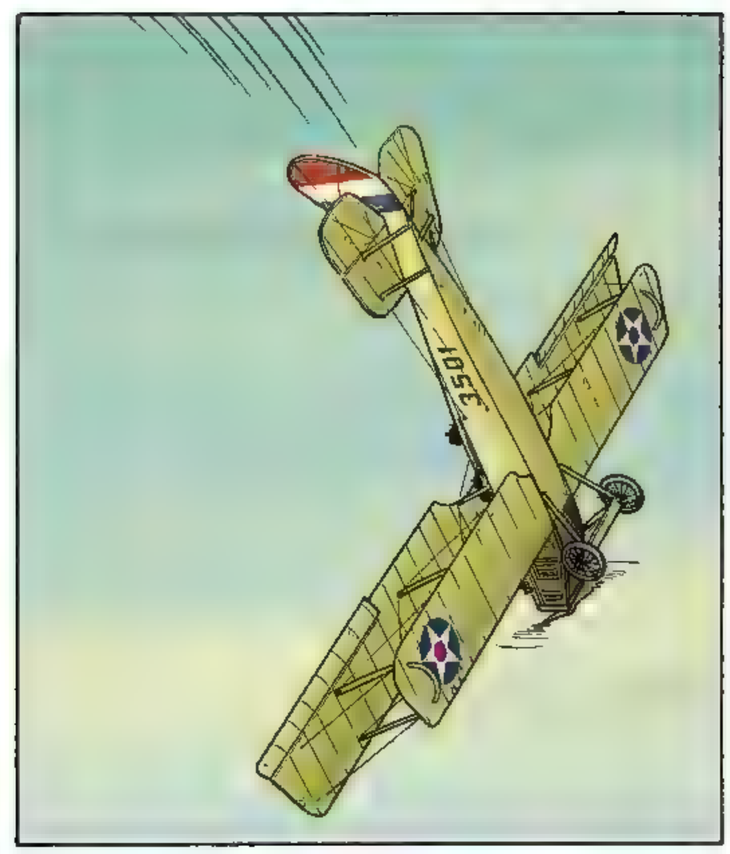

WELL, YOU BETTER HOP IN, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO LEAVE SO SOON? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST STAY HERE?
3501
BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO WORK. I HAVE TO PAY BACK WHAT I BORROWED TO BUY MY PRETTY JENNY HERE!
BUT I MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE! CAN'T YOU JUST PAY IT BACK SLOWER?

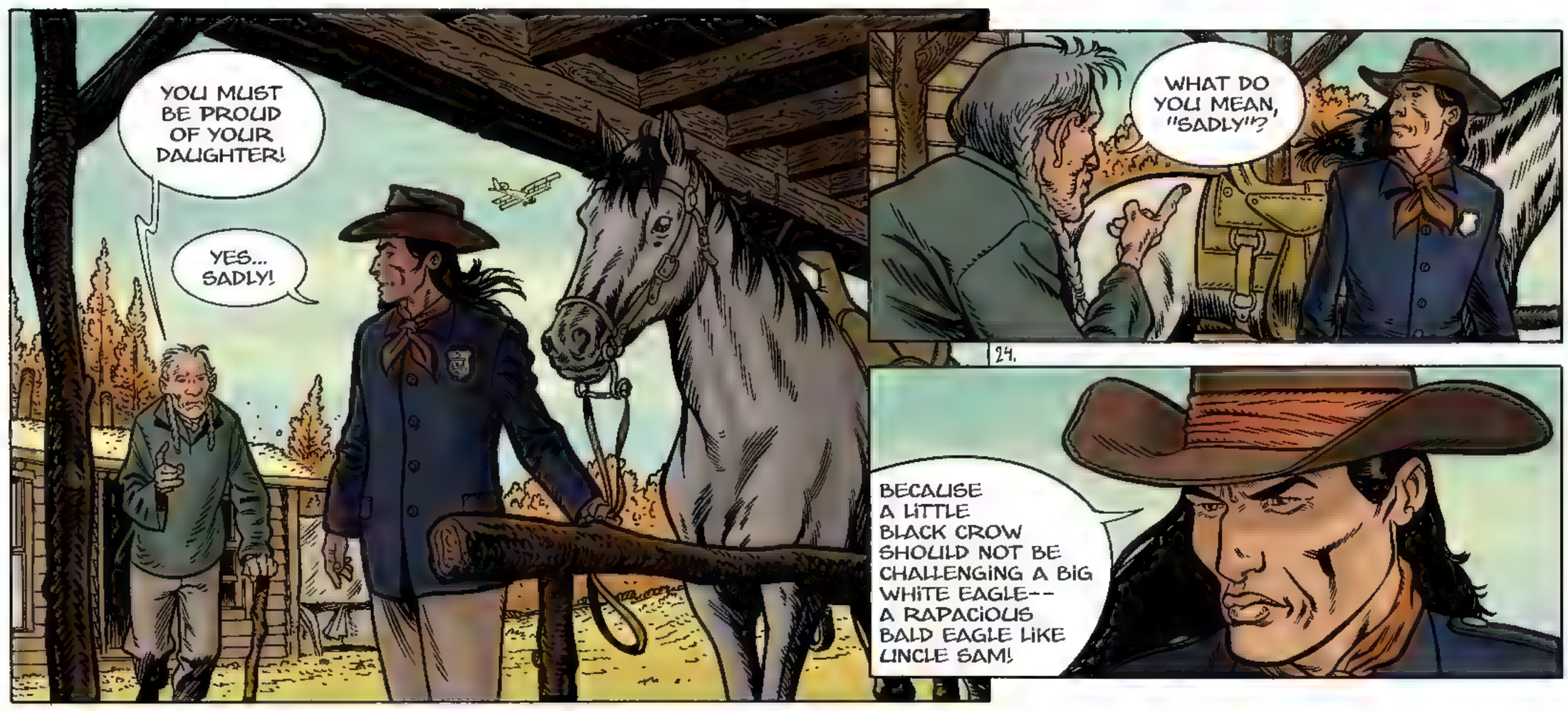
I WISH YOU COULD STAY ALL THE TIME. IT MUST BE HARD TO BE ON YOUR OWN SO MUCH. I'D GET LONELY.
BUT MAYBE IF I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FLY LIKE YOU, I'LL UNDER-STAND.


LOOK! THERE! IT'S BESSIE!
SO IT IS! THAT'S HER PLANE, ALL RIGHT!

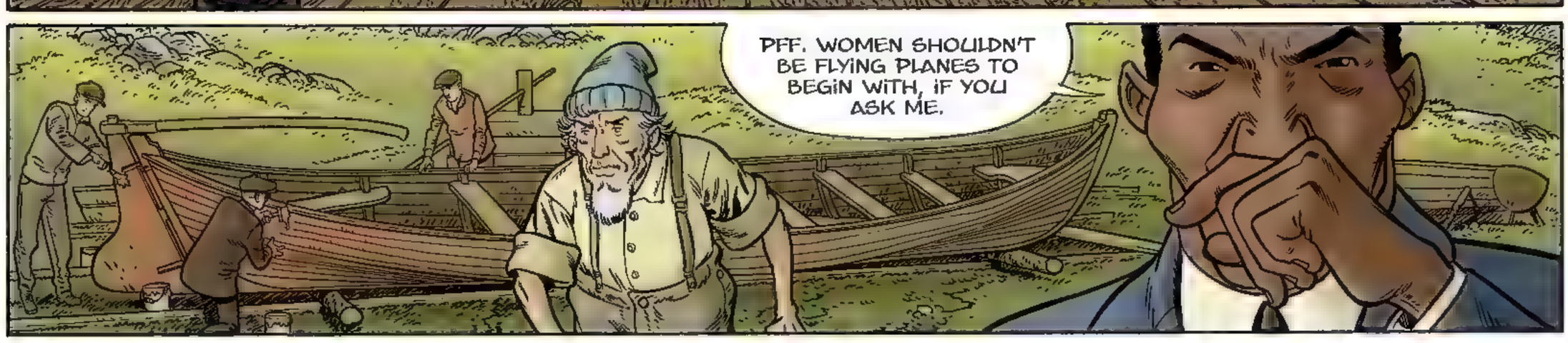




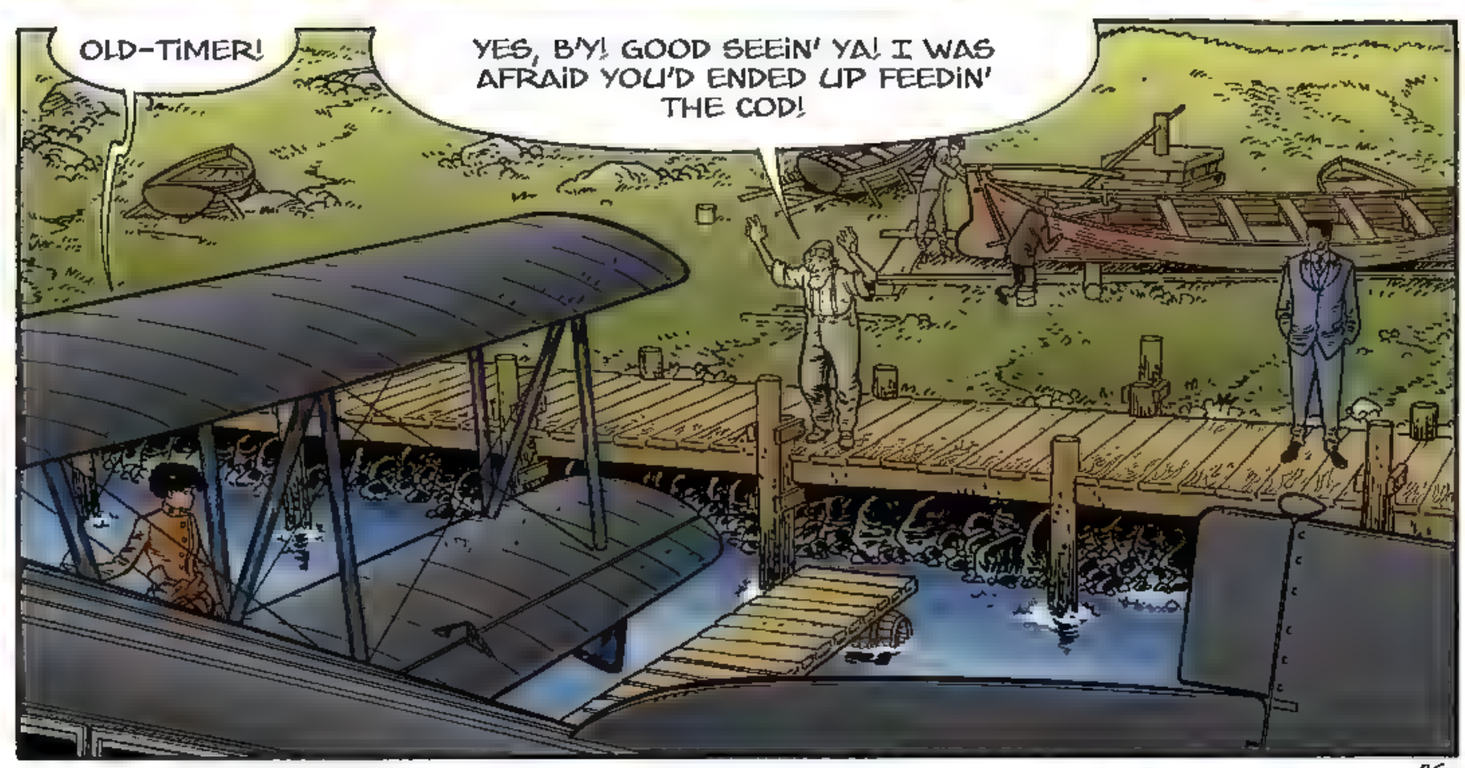



YOU MUST BE PROUD OF YOUR DAUGHTER!
YES... SADLY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SADLY"?
24.
BECAUSE A LITTLE BLACK CROW SHOULD NOT BE CHALLENGING A BIG WHITE EAGLE-- A RAPACIOUS BALD EAGLE LIKE UNCLE SAM!

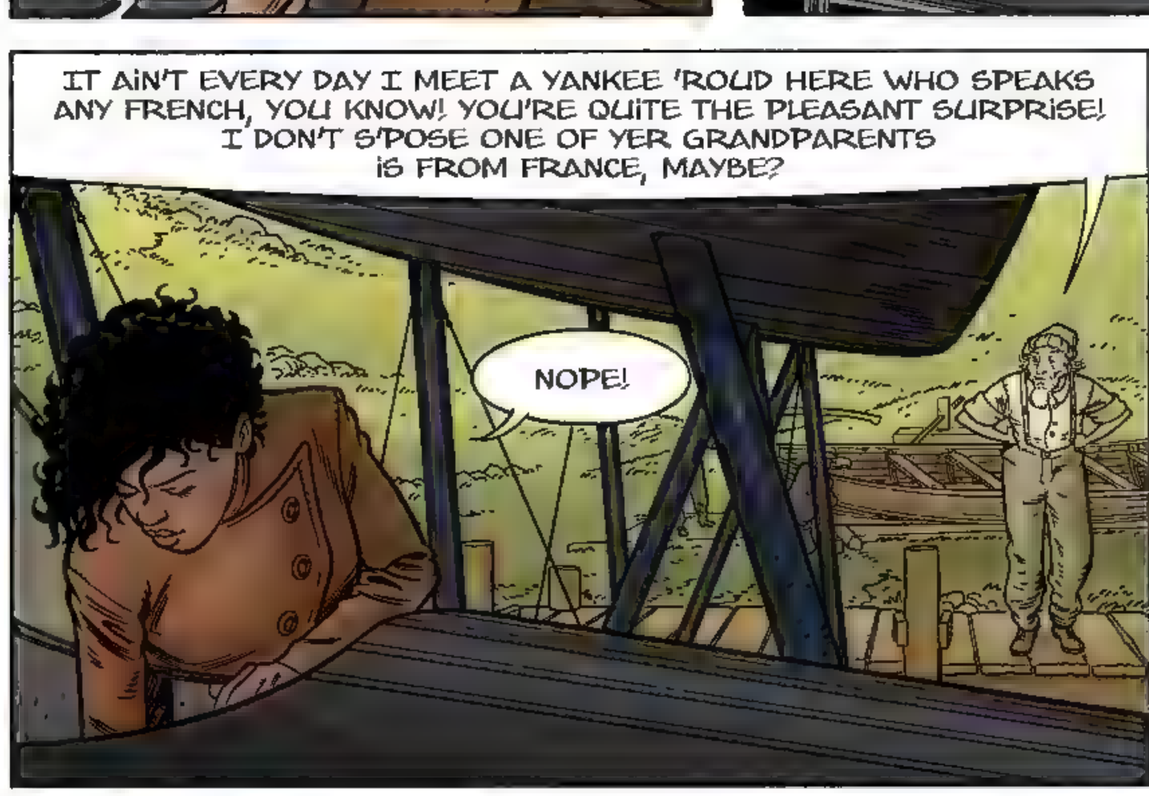
YOU BETTER NOT BE MESSING WITH ANYTHING OVER THERE, SISTER!
I'M JUST TOUCHING UP THE PAINT, OKAY? WE'VE BEEN ROUGH ON THIS BIRD LATELY.


PFF. WOMEN SHOULDN'T BE FLYING PLANES TO BEGIN WITH, IF YOU ASK ME.

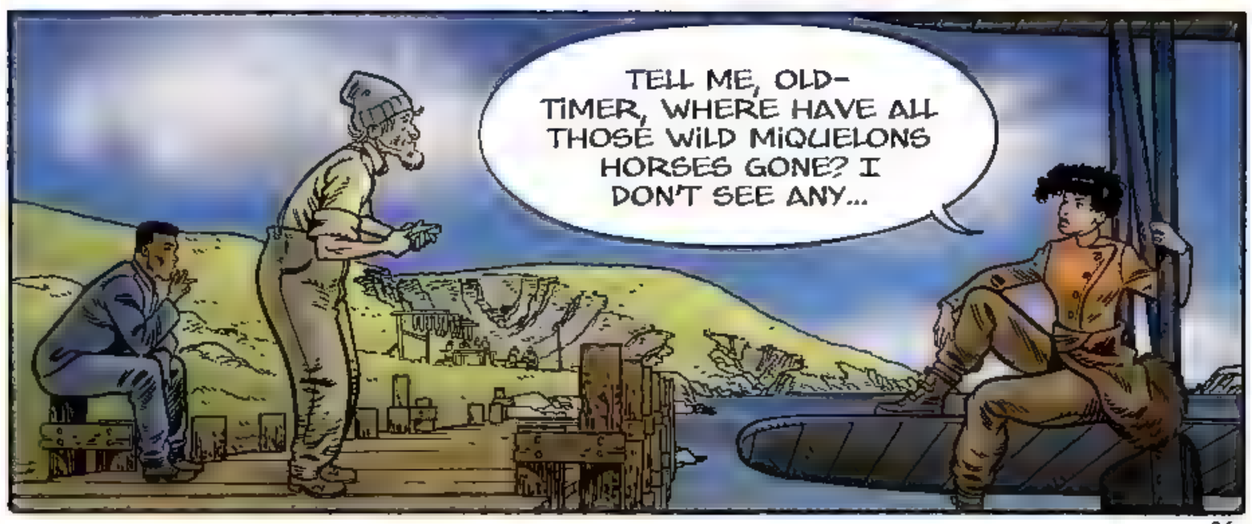
I DIDN'T ASK YOU, "BROTHER." AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. I DON'T HAVE TO WAVE A GUN AROUND AND THREATEN PEOPLE TO FEEL STRONG.
WHADDA Y'AT, KID? YOU'RE BACK!


OLD-TIMER!
YES, B'Y! GOOD SEEIN' YA! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D ENDED UP FEEDIN' THE COD!

25.

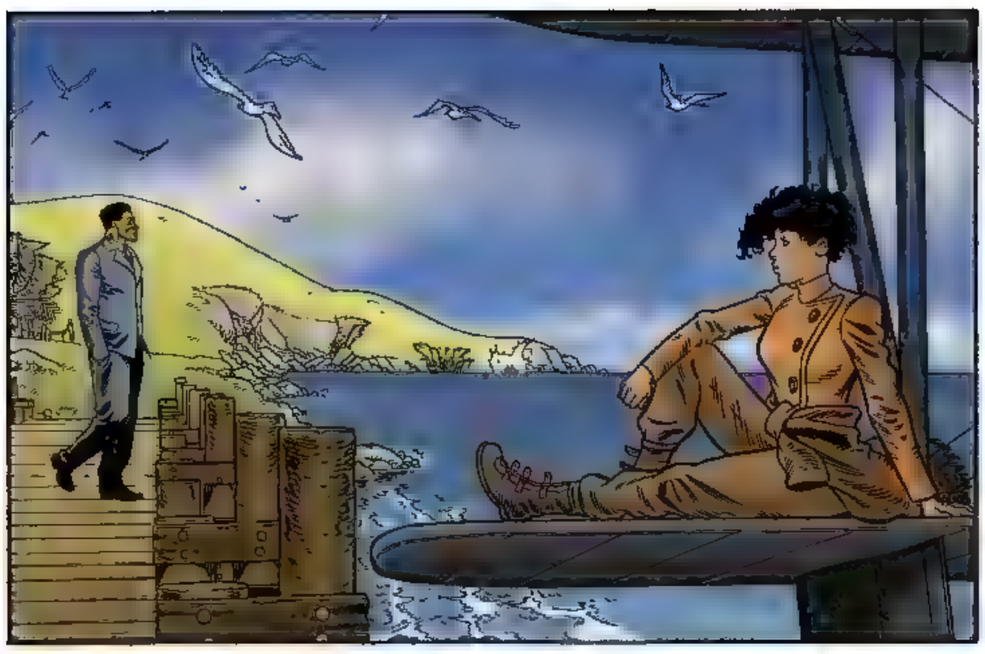

IT AIN'T EVERY DAY I MEET A YANKEE 'ROUD HERE WHO SPEAKS ANY FRENCH, YOU KNOW! YOU'RE QUITE THE PLEASANT SURPRISE! I DON'T S'POSE ONE OF YER GRANDPARENTS IS FROM FRANCE, MAYBE?
NOPE!

SO HOW D'YA LEARN IT, THEN?
THAT'S MY LITTLE SECRET! HERE, I BROUGHT SOMETHING BACK FOR YOU.



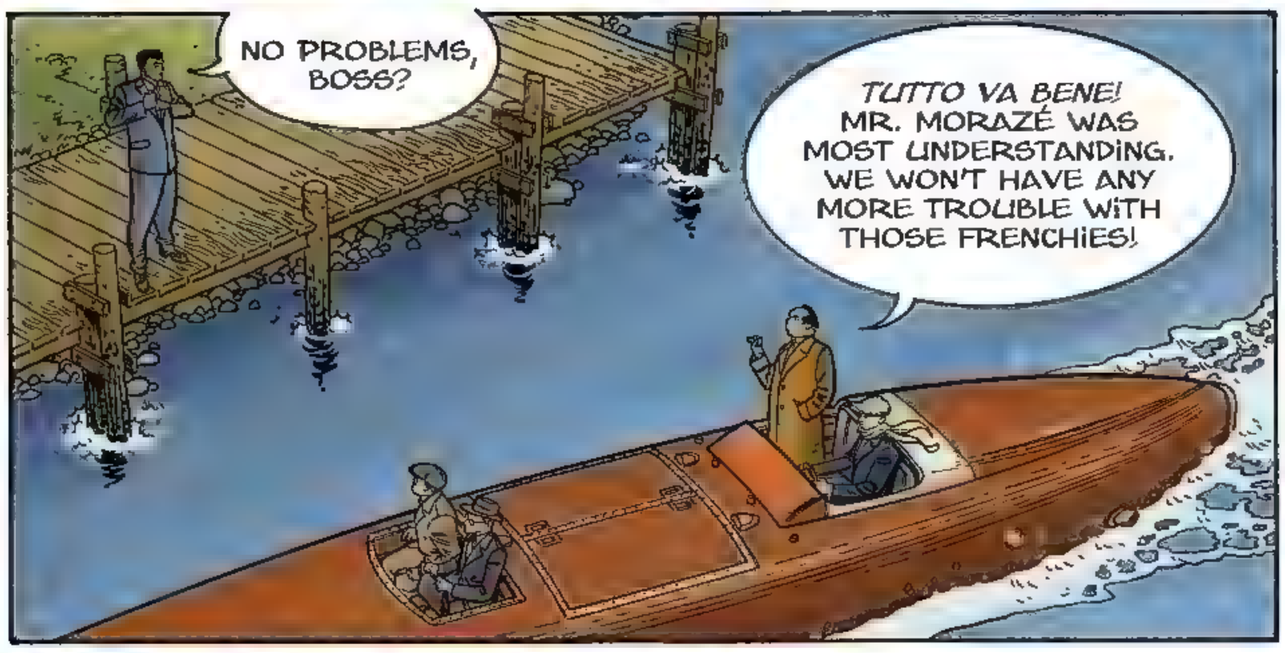
JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WERE WORTHLESS!

WHY CAN'T WHITE PEOPLE EVER JUST LEAVE THINGS IN PEACE?



HERE COMES THE BOSS!

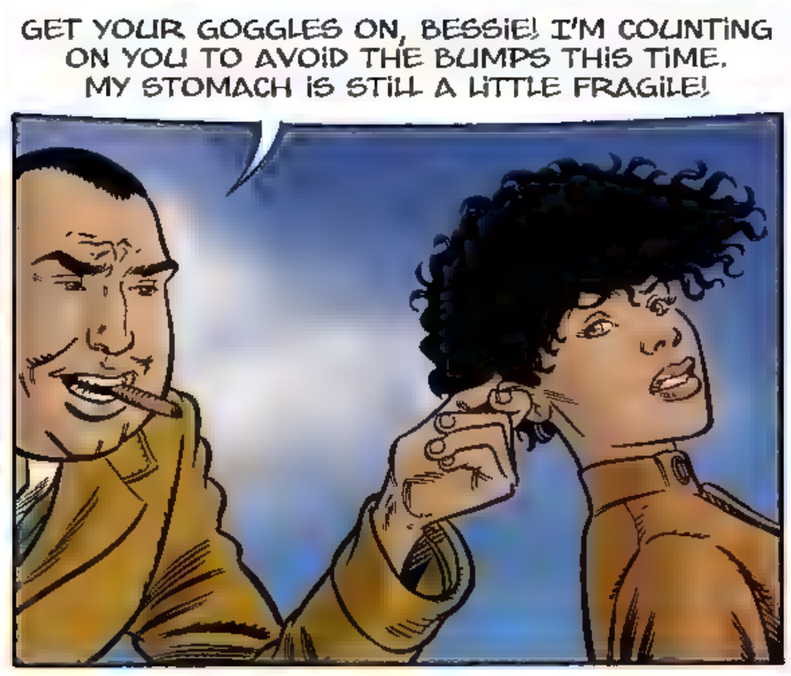
ALL THREE OF THEM ARE IN THE BOAT... AND THEY'RE SMILING.

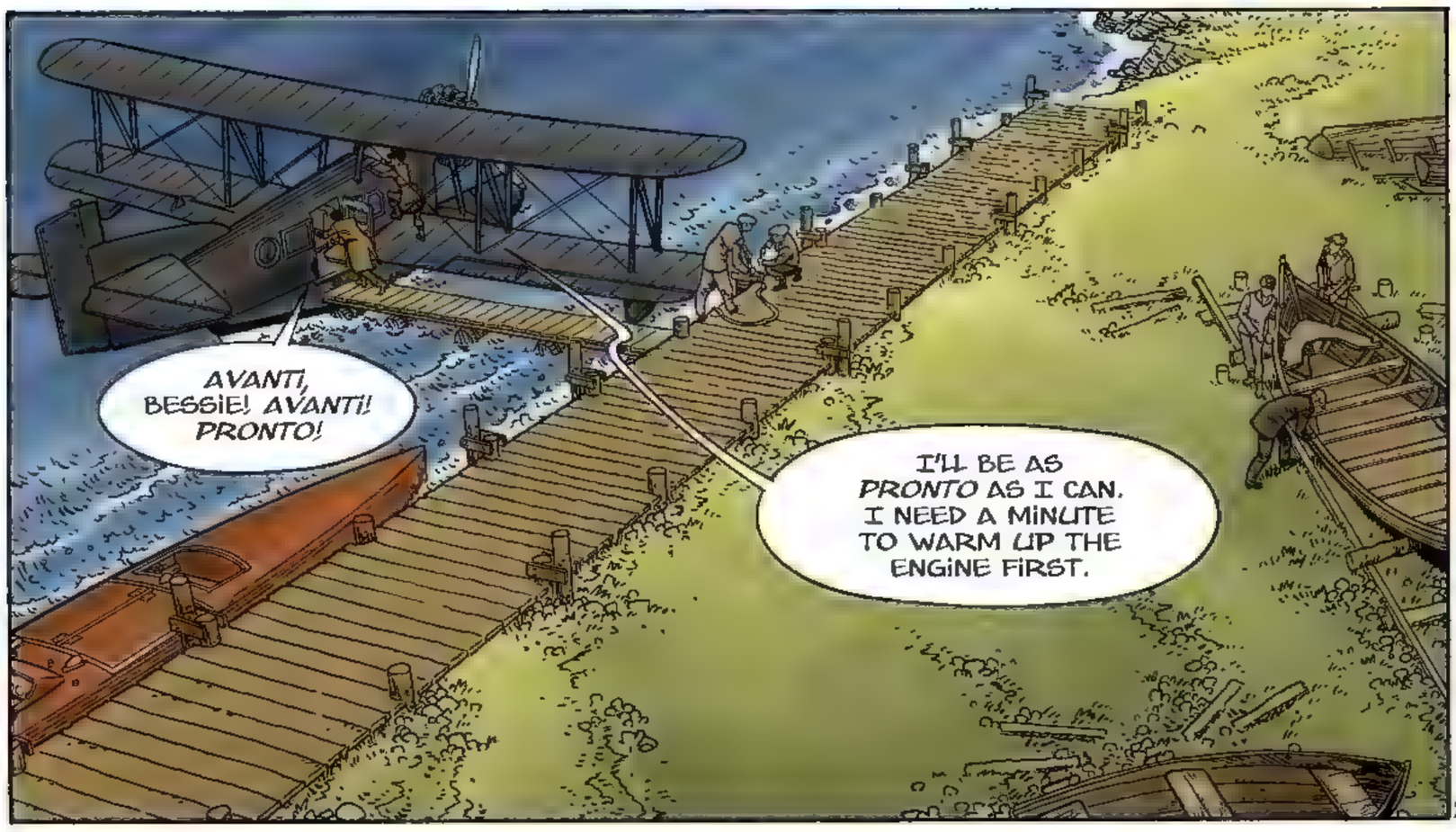

NO PROBLEMS, BOSS?
TUTTO VA BENE! MR. MORAZÉ WAS MOST UNDERSTANDING. WE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE WITH THOSE FRENCHIES!

I SIMPLY EXPLAINED THAT IT WASN'T IN HIS INTERESTS TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME AND DO BUSINESS WITH A MAN LIKE BUGS MORAN.

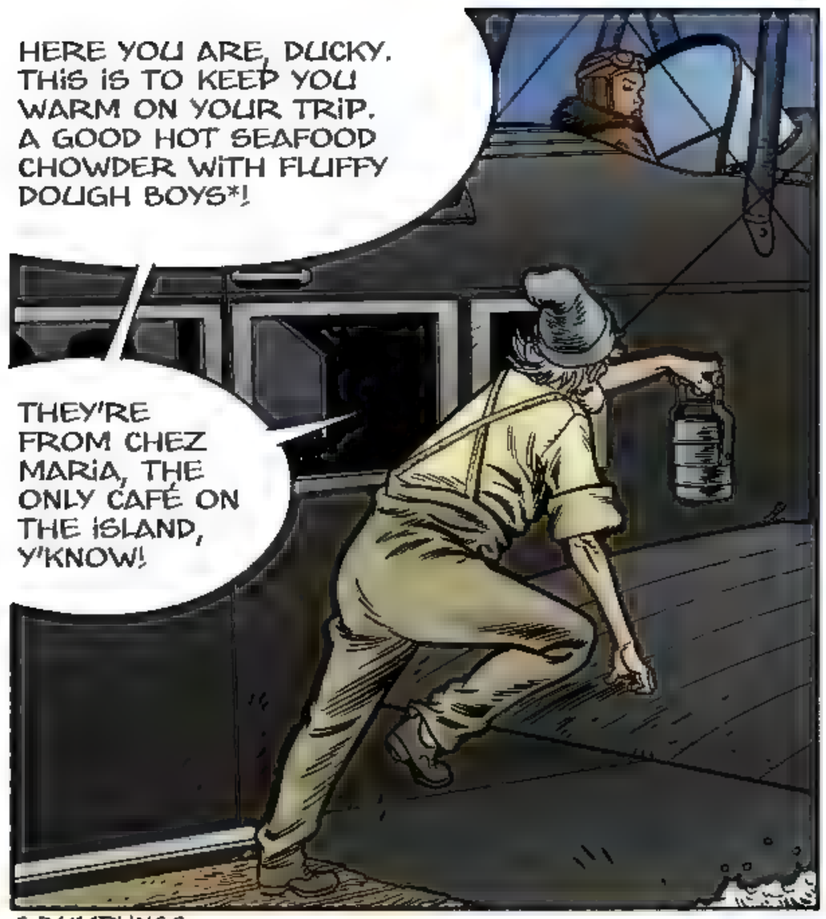
I'M VERY PERSUASIVE. NOW HE KNOWS NOT TO PLAY TRICKS LIKE THAT IN THIS BUSINESS.

TAKE THIS, SERGIO. IT'S CREASING MY COAT!


GET YOUR GOGGLES ON, BESSIE! I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO AVOID THE BUMPS THIS TIME. MY STOMACH IS STILL A LITTLE FRAGILE!

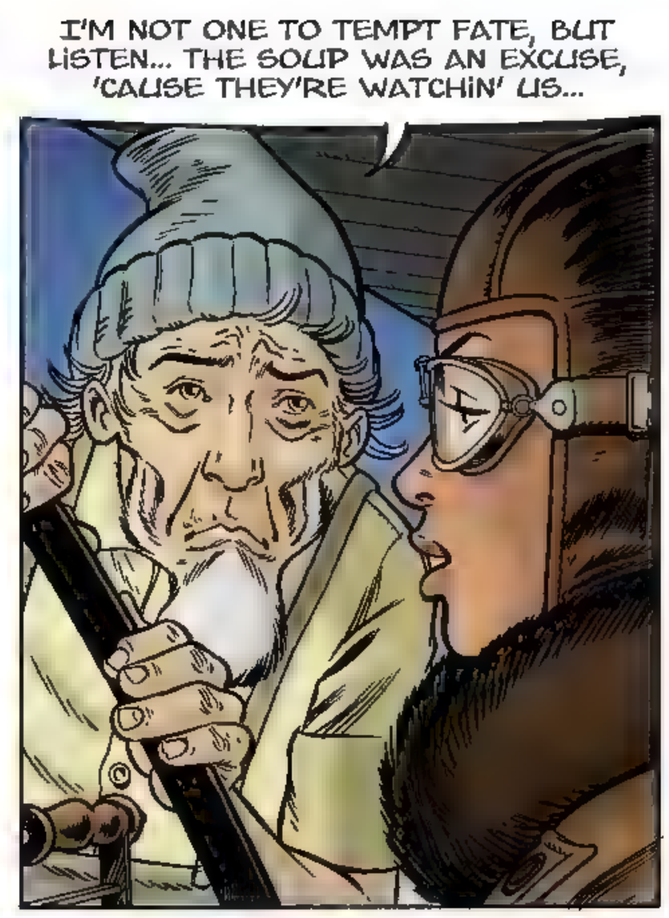

AVANTI, BESSIE! AVANTI! PRONTO!
I'LL BE AS PRONTO AS I CAN. I NEED A MINUTE TO WARM UP THE ENGINE FIRST.

BESSIE! WAIT! I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!

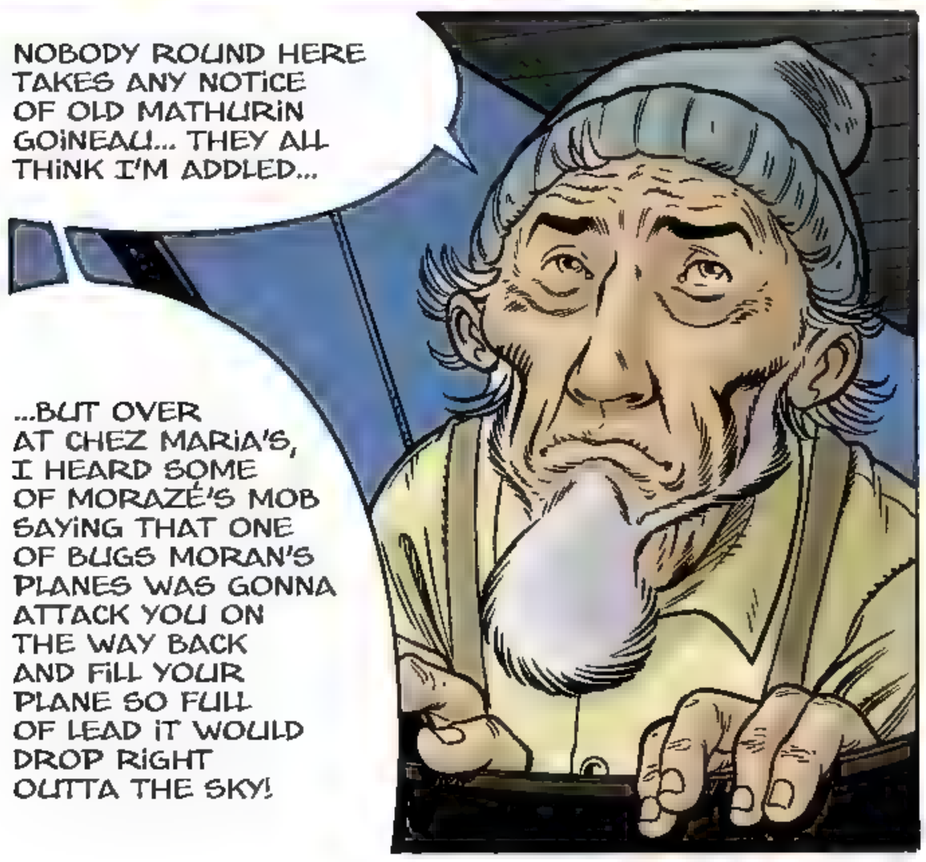

HERE YOU ARE, DUCKY. THIS IS TO KEEP YOU WARM ON YOUR TRIP. A GOOD HOT SEAFOOD CHOWDER WITH FLUFFY DOUGH BOYS*!
THEY'RE FROM CHEZ MARIA, THE ONLY CAFÉ ON THE ISLAND, Y'KNOW!

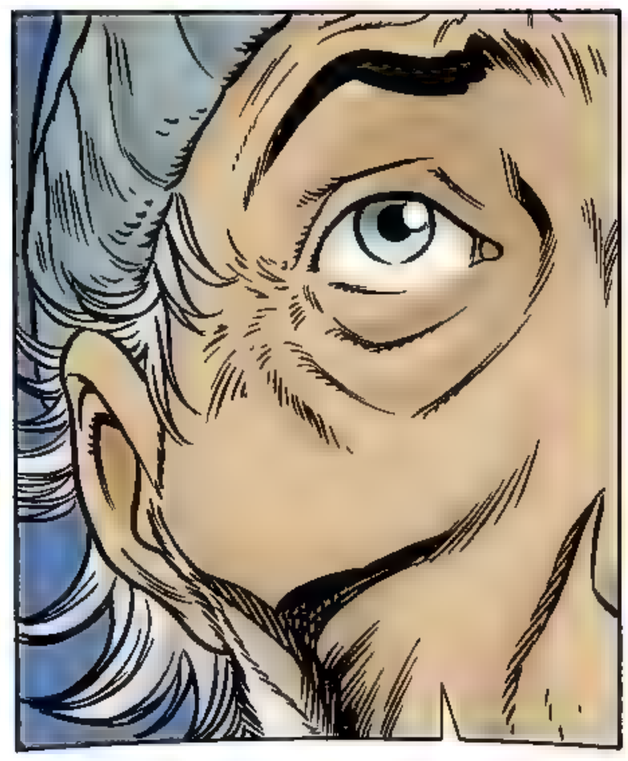
* DUMPLINGS

IT'LL SETTLE YER STOMACH, TOO. WHICH YOU'LL NEED AFTER ALL THEM BUMPY FLIGHTS!
THANKS, OLD-TIMER! I'M GUT-FOUNDERED!

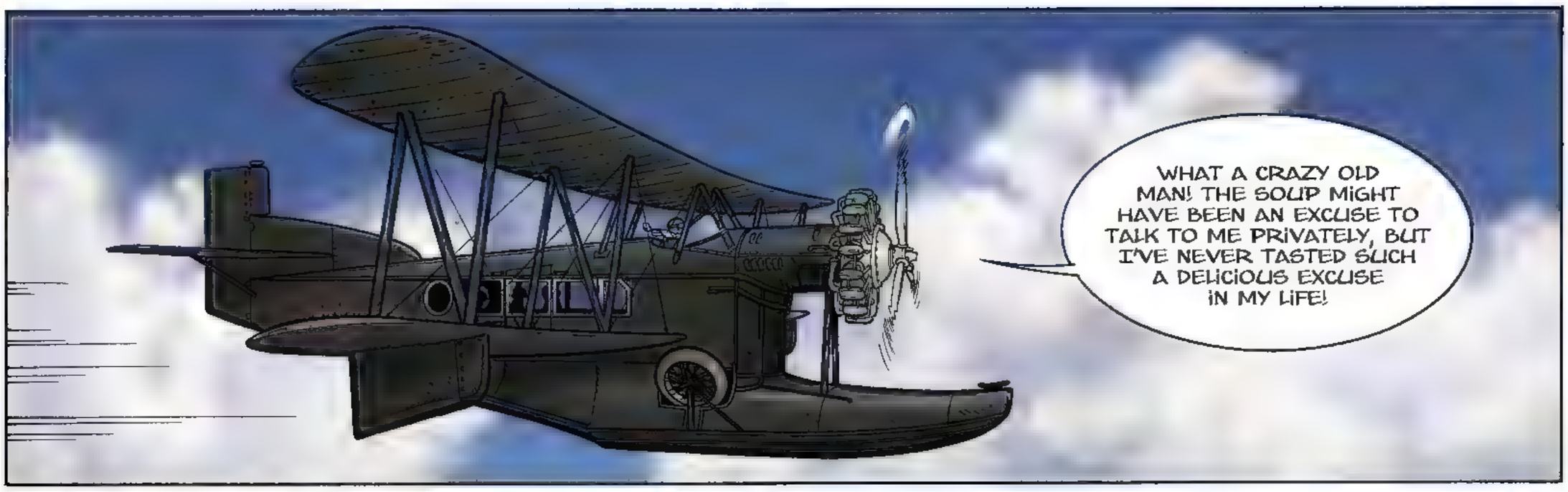

I'M NOT ONE TO TEMPT FATE, BUT LISTEN... THE SOUP WAS AN EXCUSE, 'CAUSE THEY'RE WATCHIN' US...

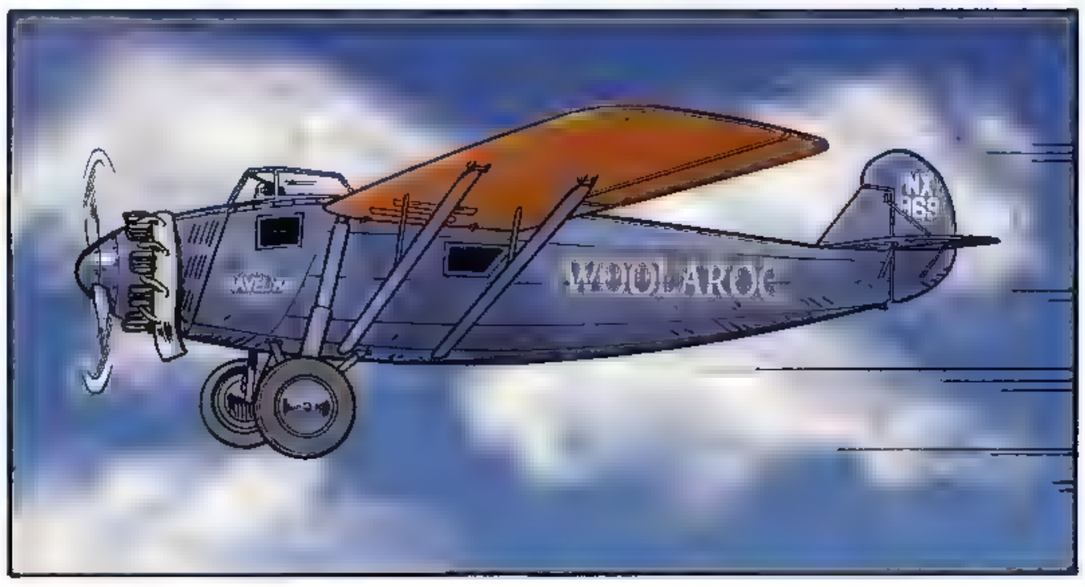
...AND I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, DUCKY... WHEN I WAS AT CHEZ MARIA'S, I HEARD SOME BAD THINGS... I THINK YOU COULD BE MIRED IN THE OLD MOLASSES!
HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, OLD-TIMER?

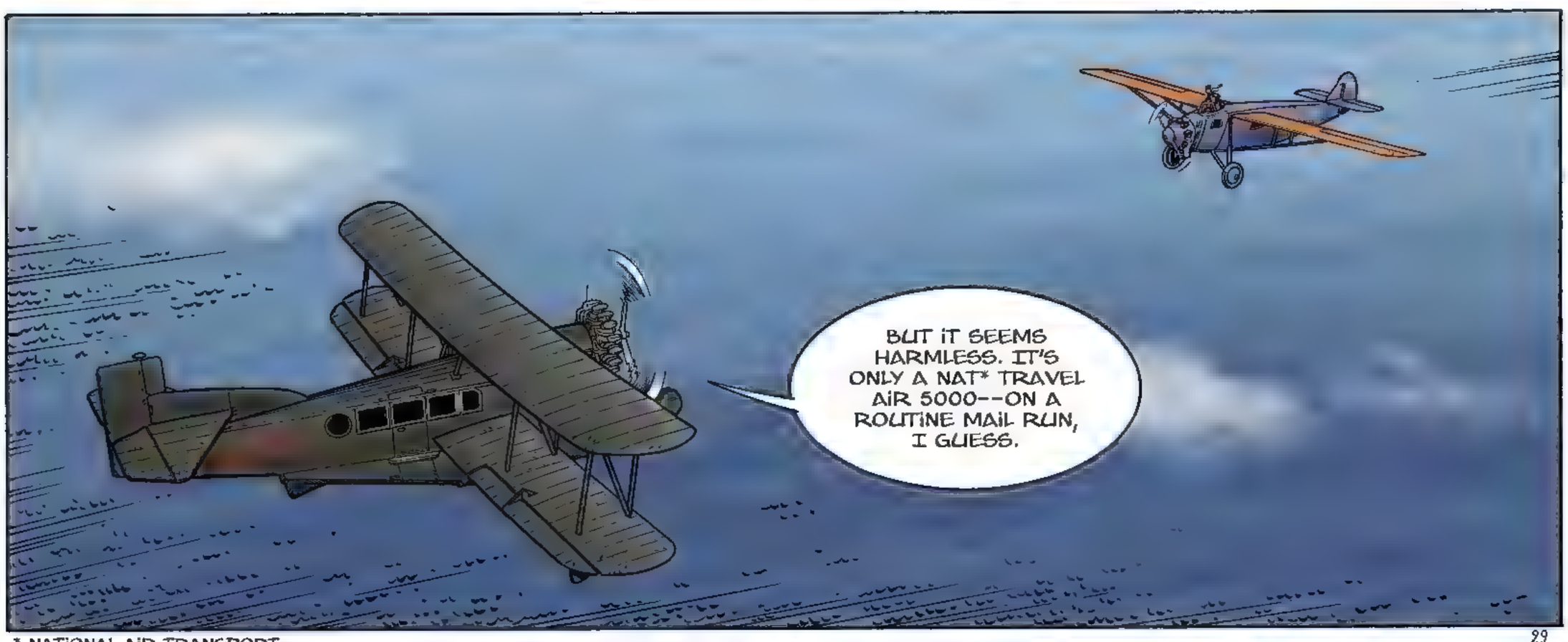

NOBODY ROUND HERE TAKES ANY NOTICE OF OLD MATHURIN GOINEAU... THEY ALL THINK I'M ADDLED...
...BUT OVER AT CHEZ MARIA'S, I HEARD SOME OF MORAZÉ'S MOB SAYING THAT ONE OF BUGS MORAN'S PLANES WAS GONNA ATTACK YOU ON THE WAY BACK AND FILL YOUR PLANE SO FULL OF LEAD IT WOULD DROP RIGHT OUTTA THE SKY!


SO BE CAREFUL AND KEEP AN EYE OUT! AND WATCH THE WEATHER, TOO!

THERE'S A HURRICANE ON THE WAY, THEY SAY!
MAY GOD GO WITH YOU! HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY NOW!







* NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT

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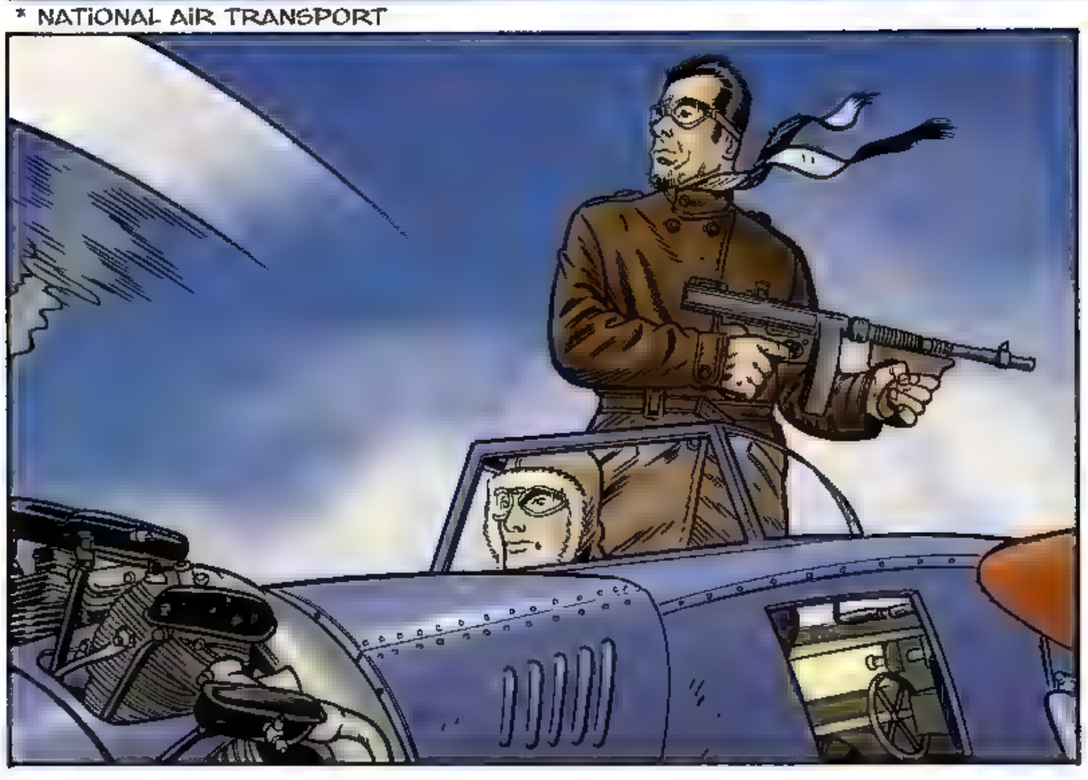
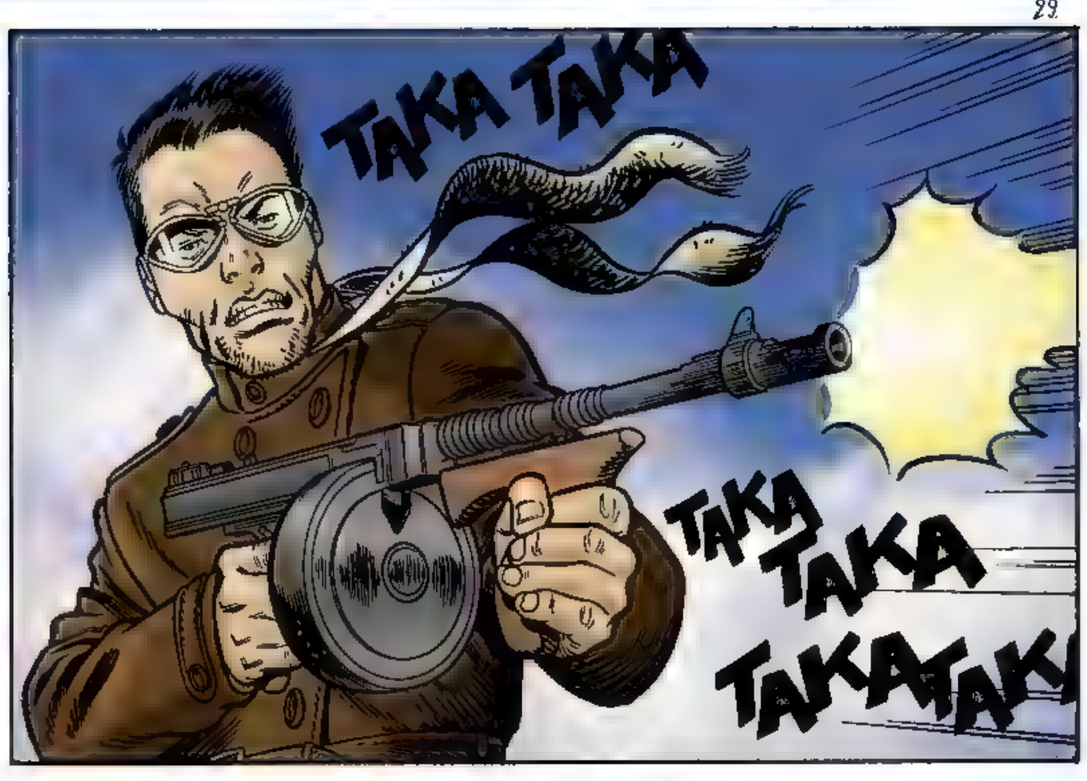
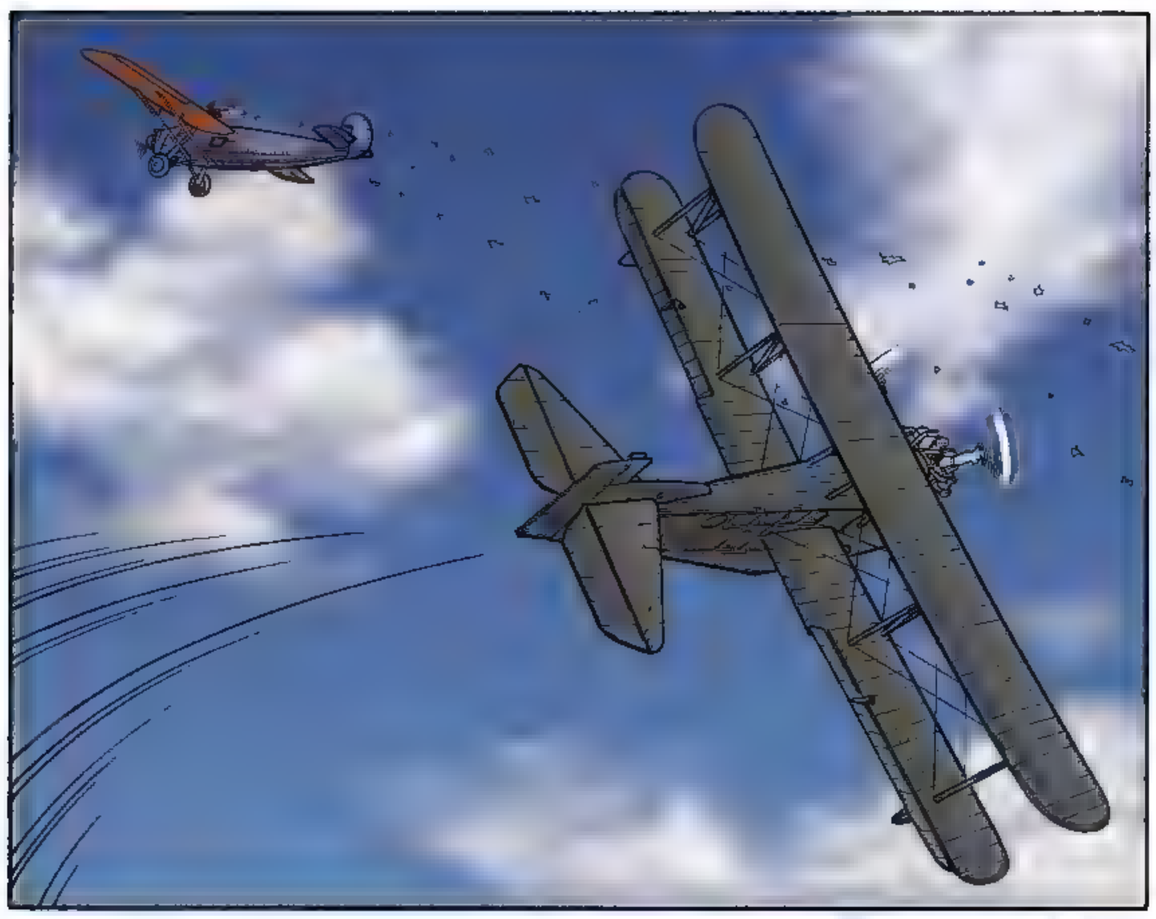
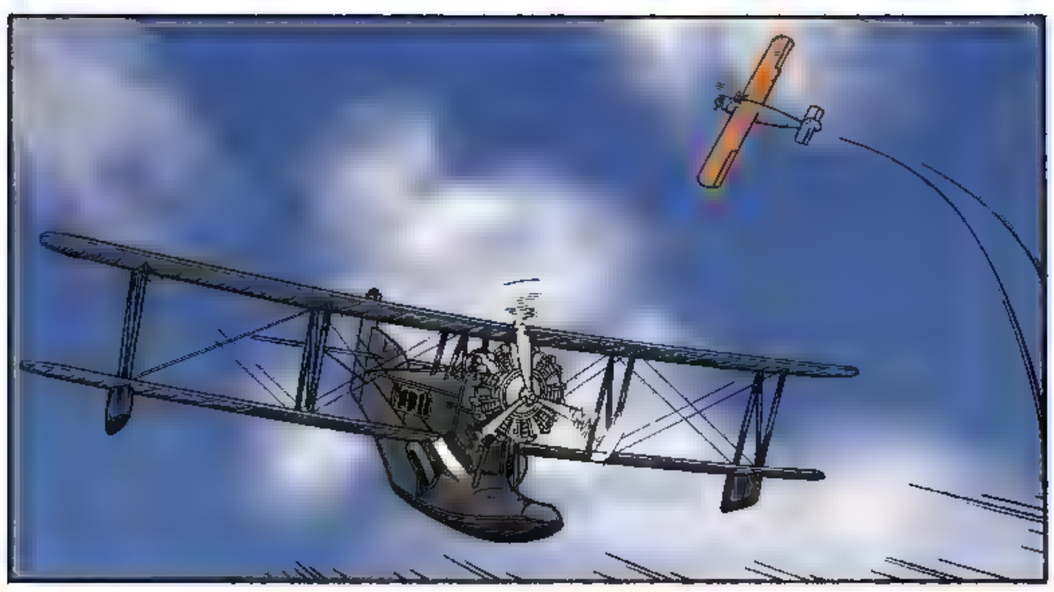
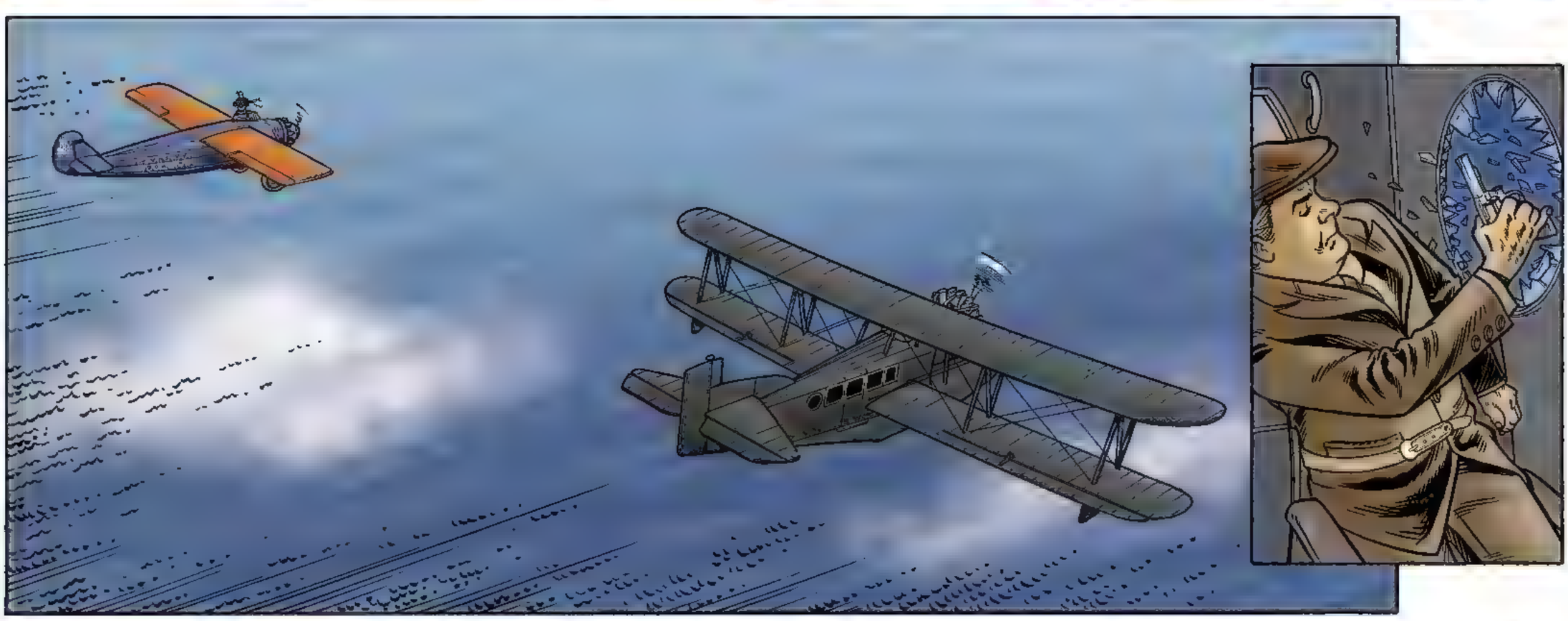


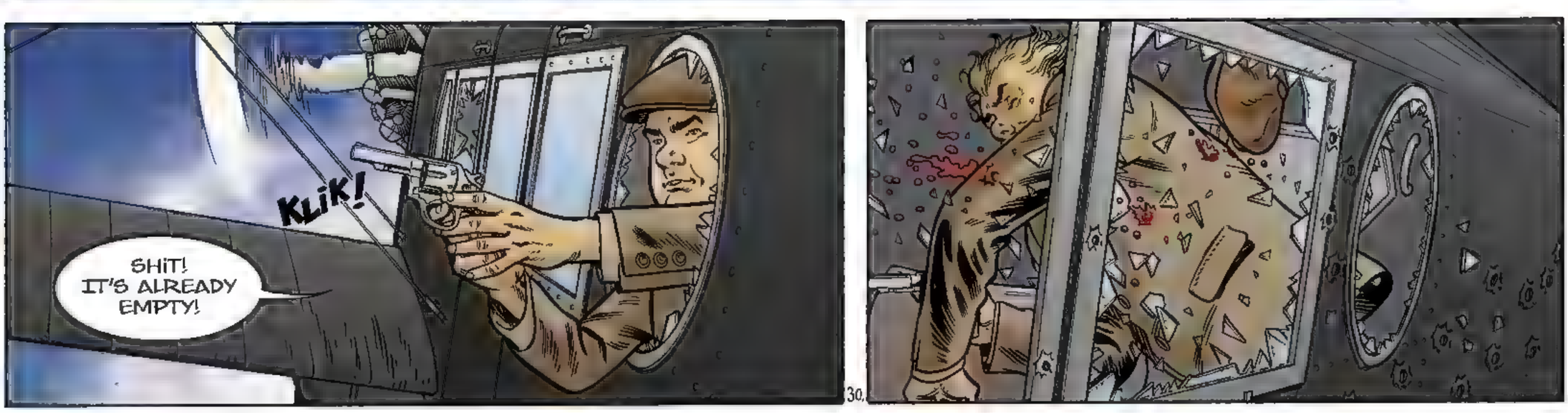


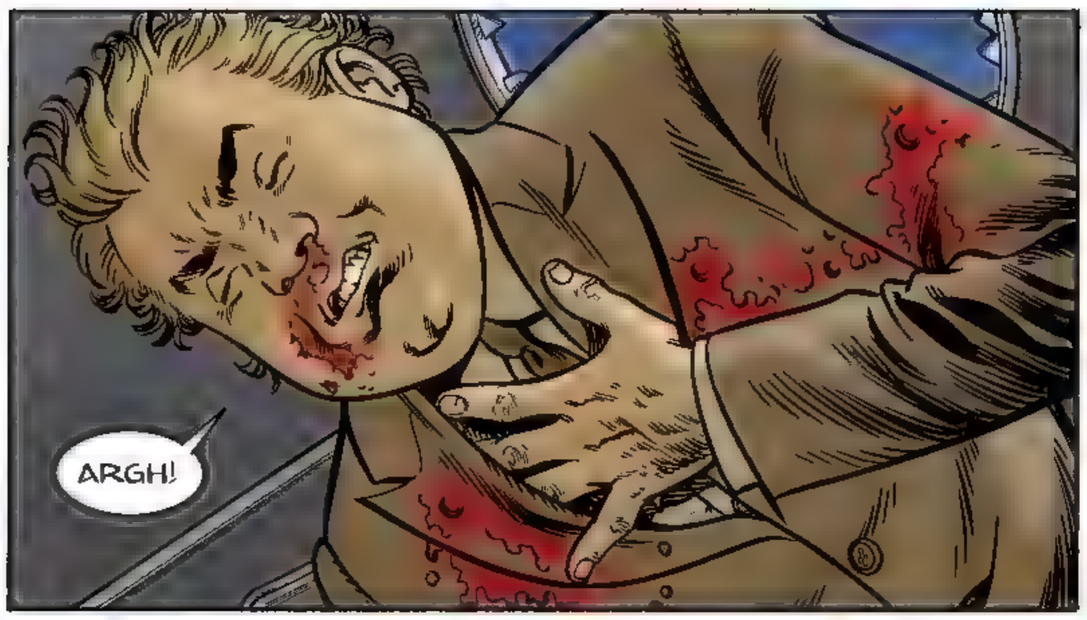


DAMN IT TO HELL! I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY MACHINE GUN!
SHUT UP, SERGIO! YOU'VE GOT YOUR REVOLVER, HAVEN'T YOU?
MUNDI'S RIGHT! HE'S COMING BACK! TRY SHOOTING INSTEAD OF WHINING!

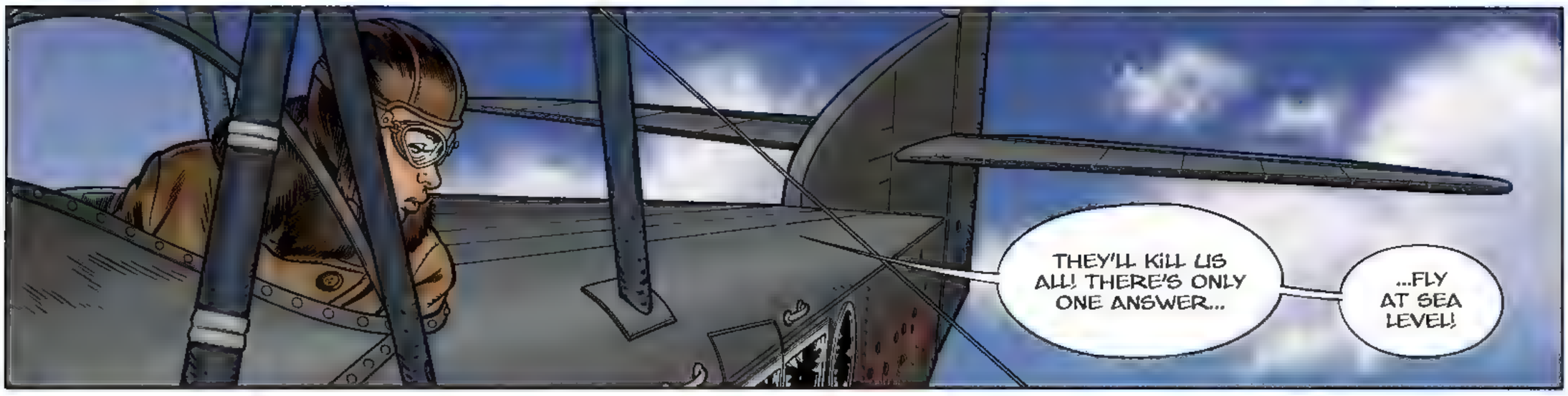


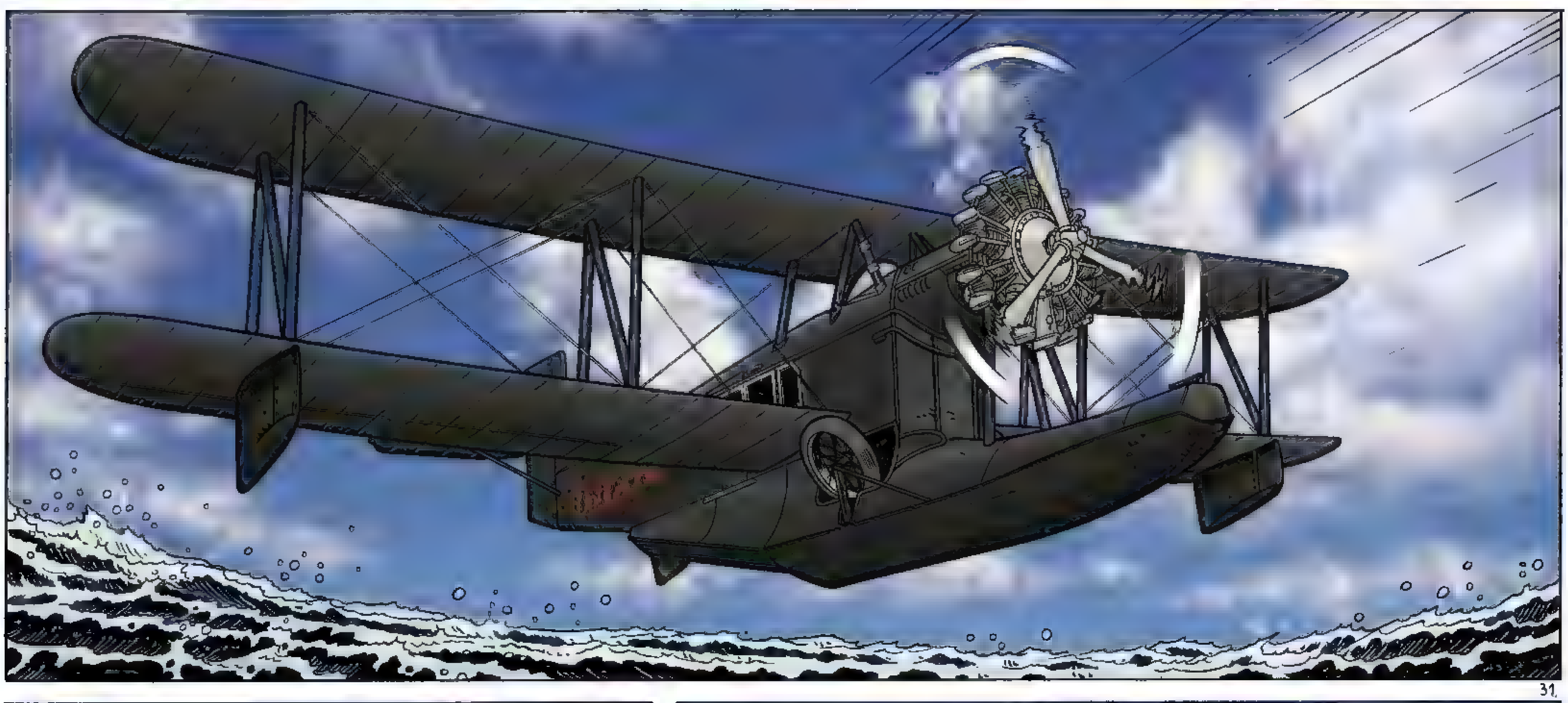



KLIK!
SHIT! IT'S ALREADY EMPTY!


ARGH!

KLIK!
KLIK!
KLIK!
DAMN! EMPTY!


THEY'LL KILL US ALL! THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER...
...FLY AT SEA LEVEL!



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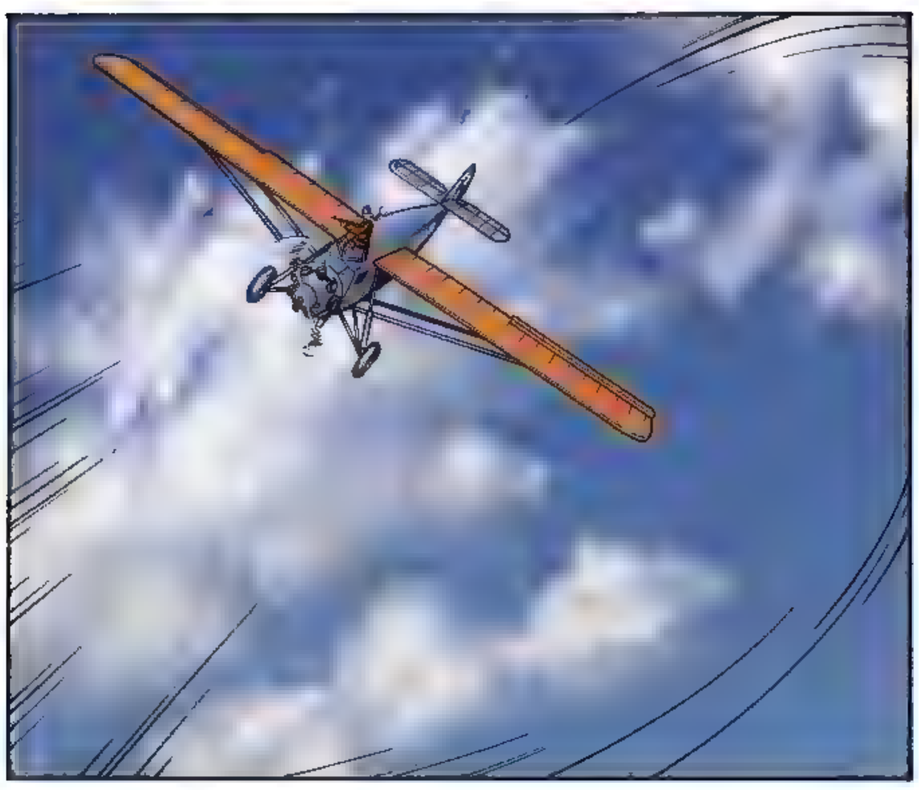
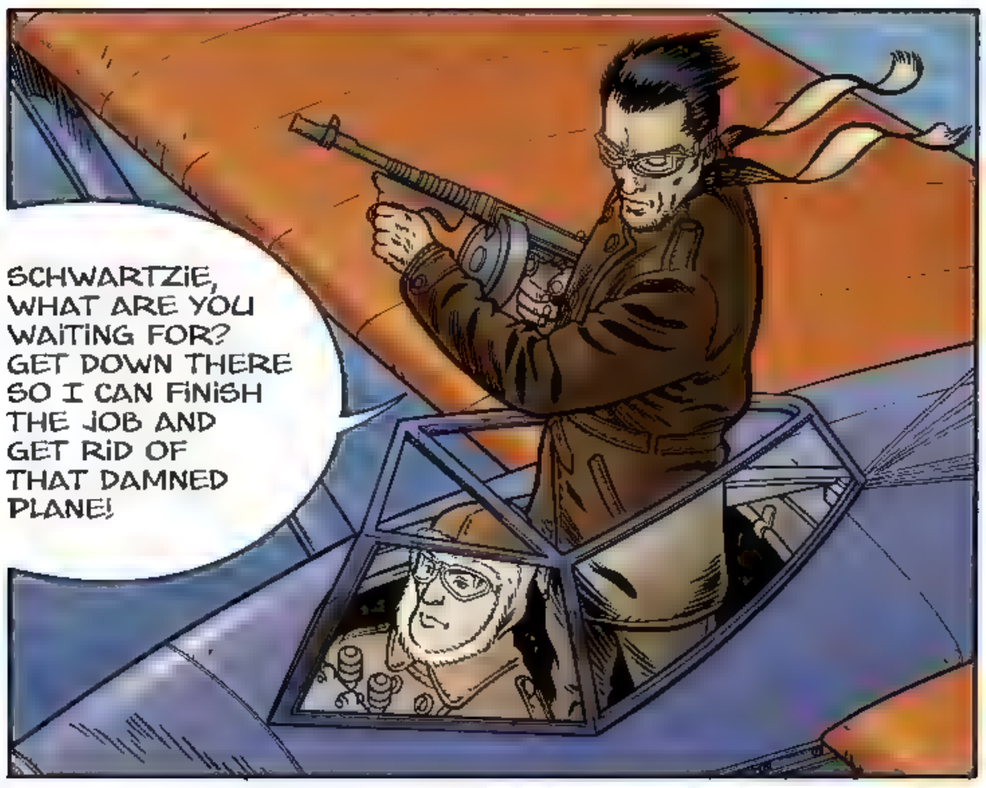
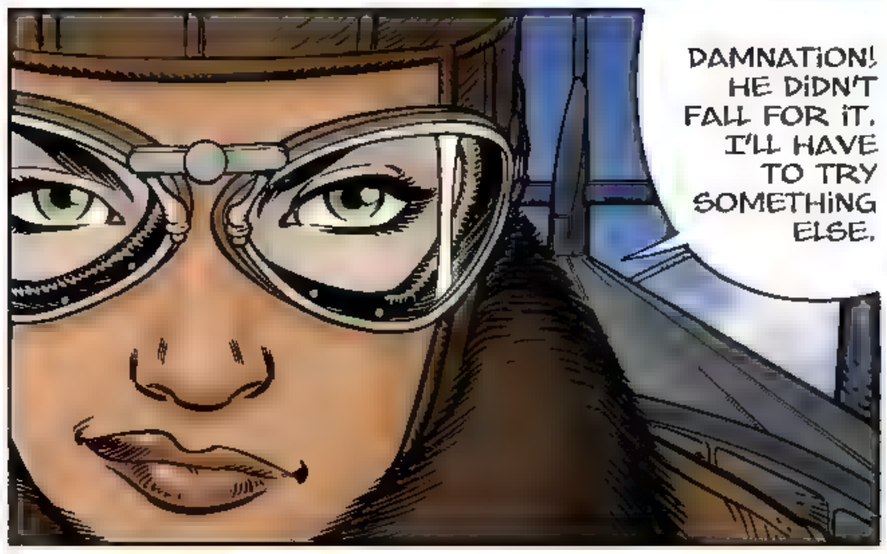
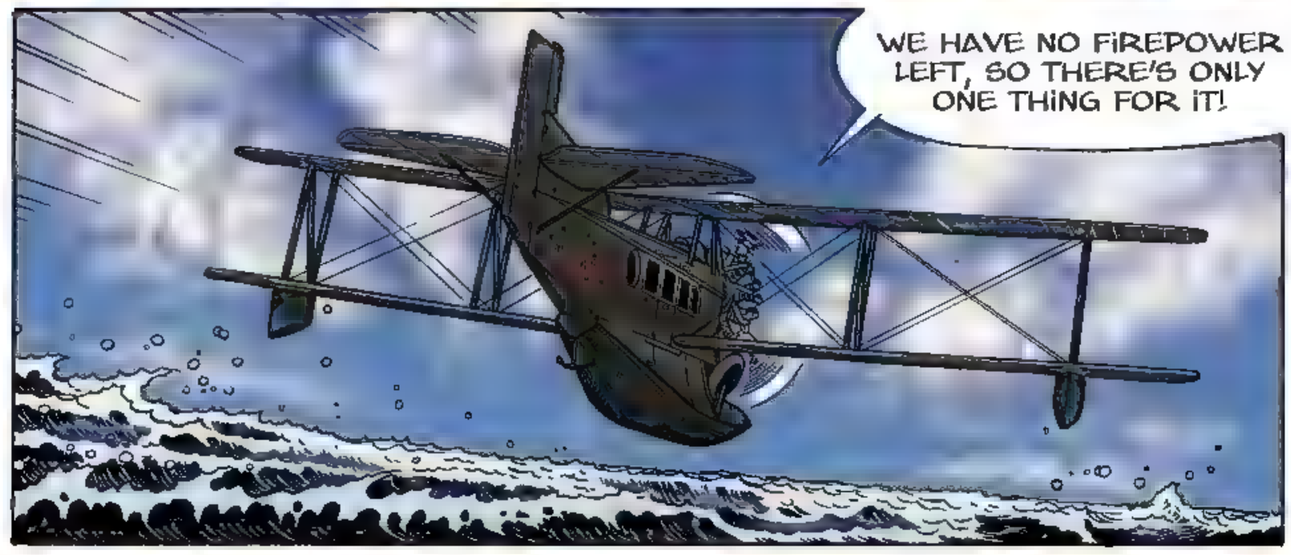
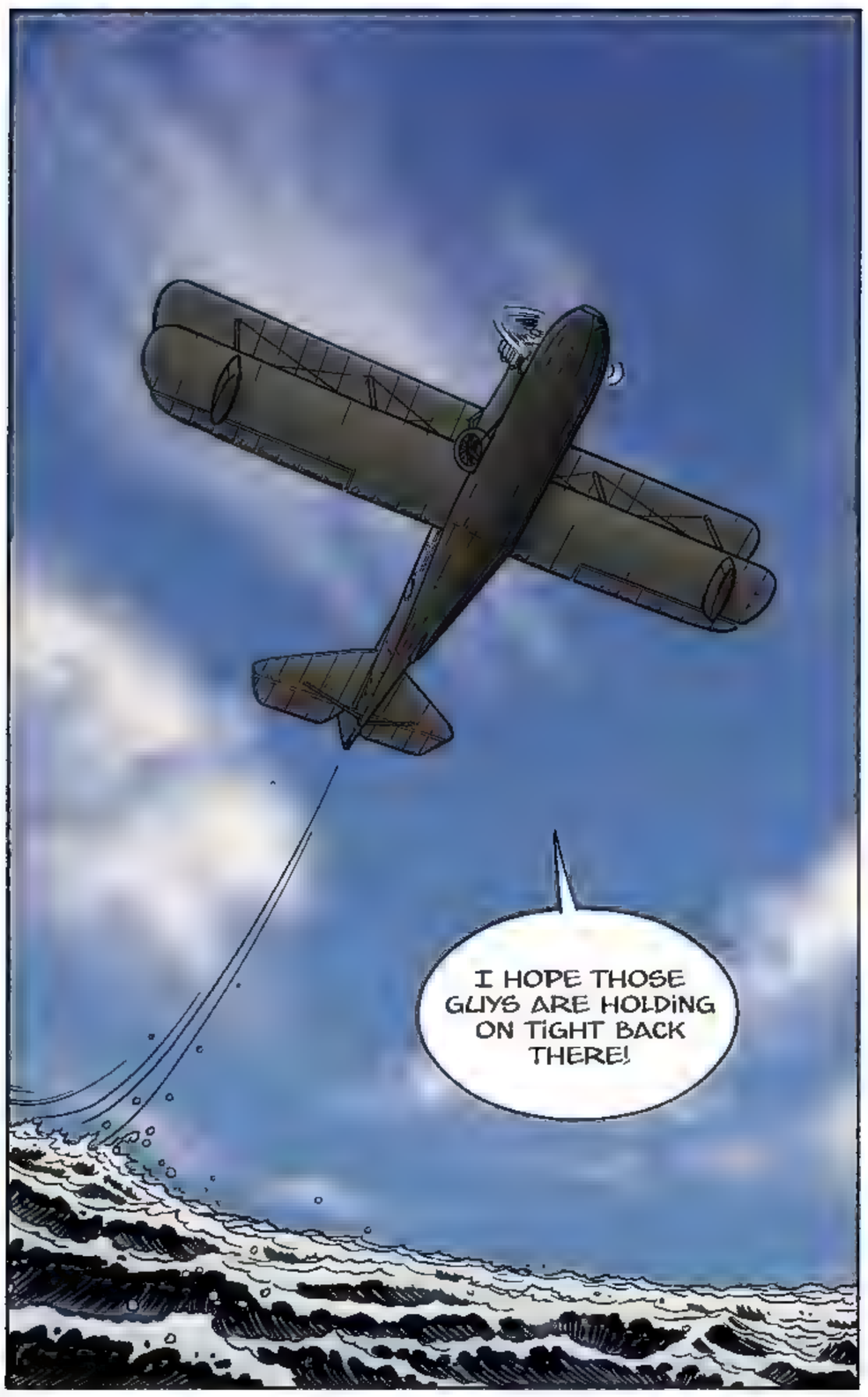


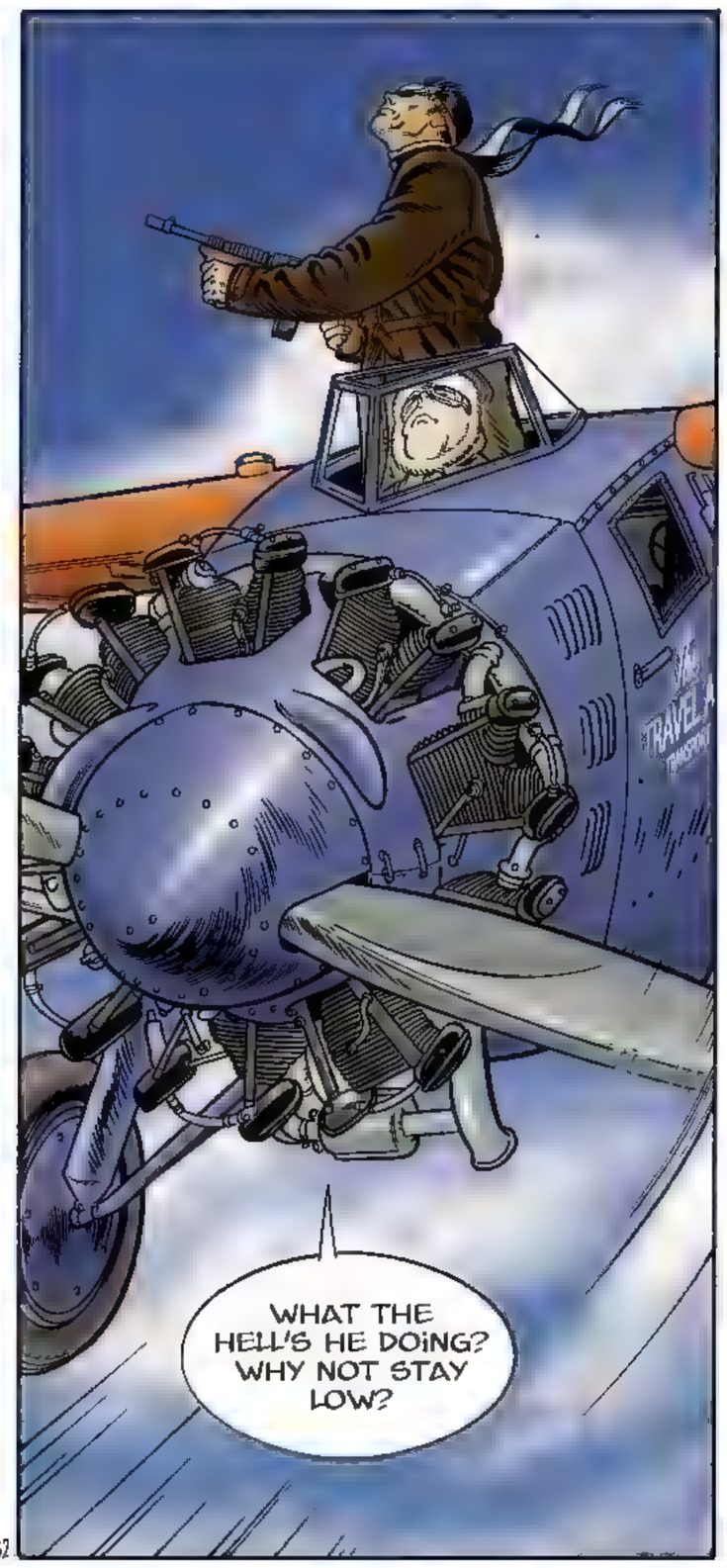

SCHWARTZIE, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET DOWN THERE SO I CAN FINISH THE JOB AND GET RID OF THAT DAMNED PLANE!

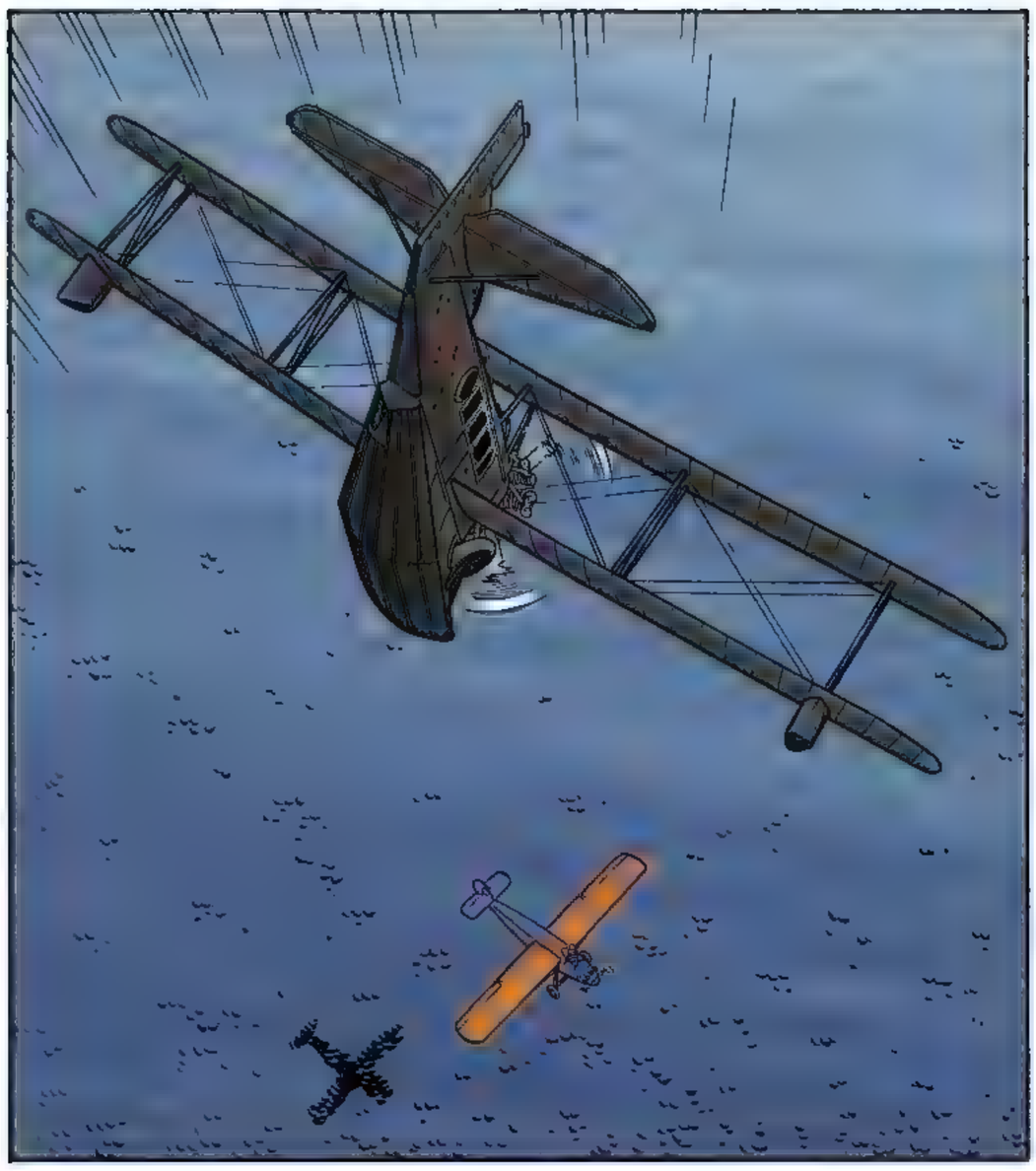
THAT'S JUST WHAT THEIR PILOT WANTS ME TO DO! THE SNEAKY BASTARD IS HOPING THAT IF I FOLLOW HIM DOWN, I'LL CATCH THE TOP OF A WAVE! HE'S GOT FLOATS AND WE DON'T!


DAMNATION! HE DIDN'T FALL FOR IT. I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

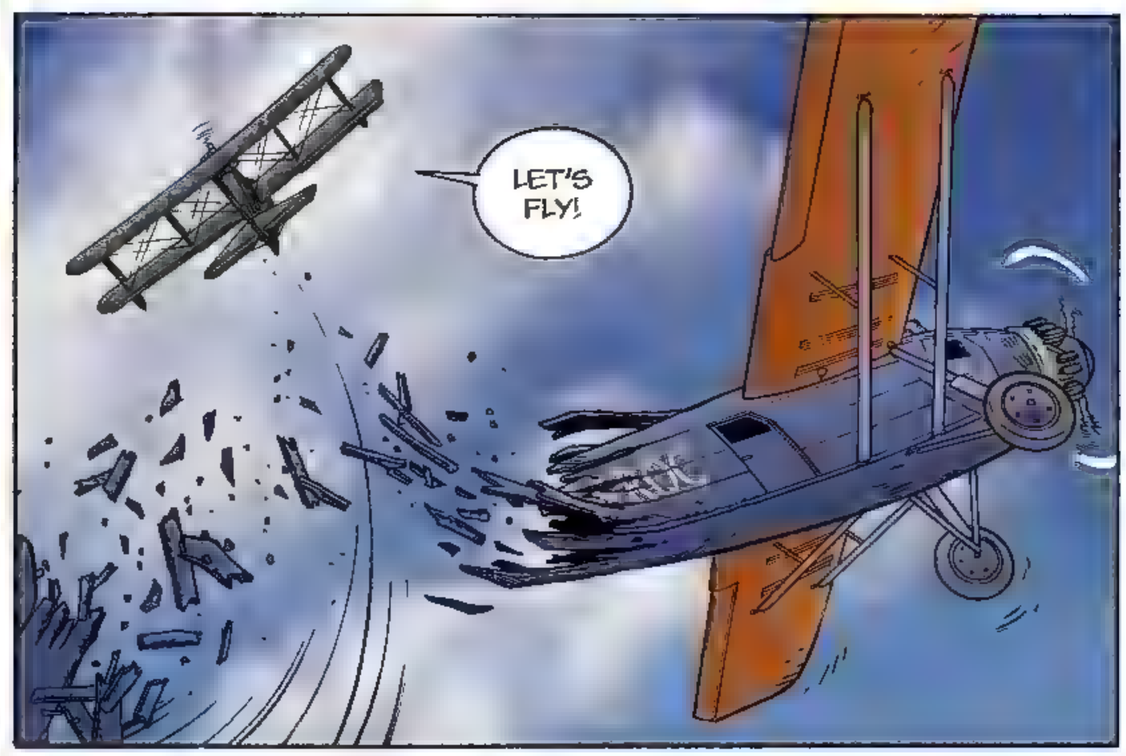

WE HAVE NO FIREPOWER LEFT, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT!

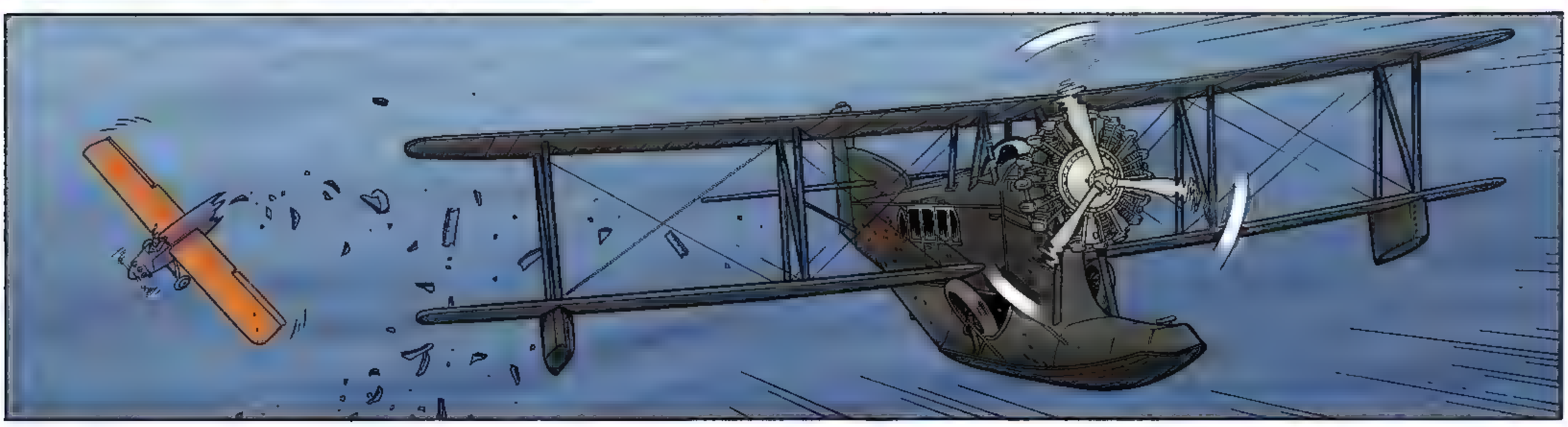

I HOPE THOSE GUYS ARE HOLDING ON TIGHT BACK THERE!

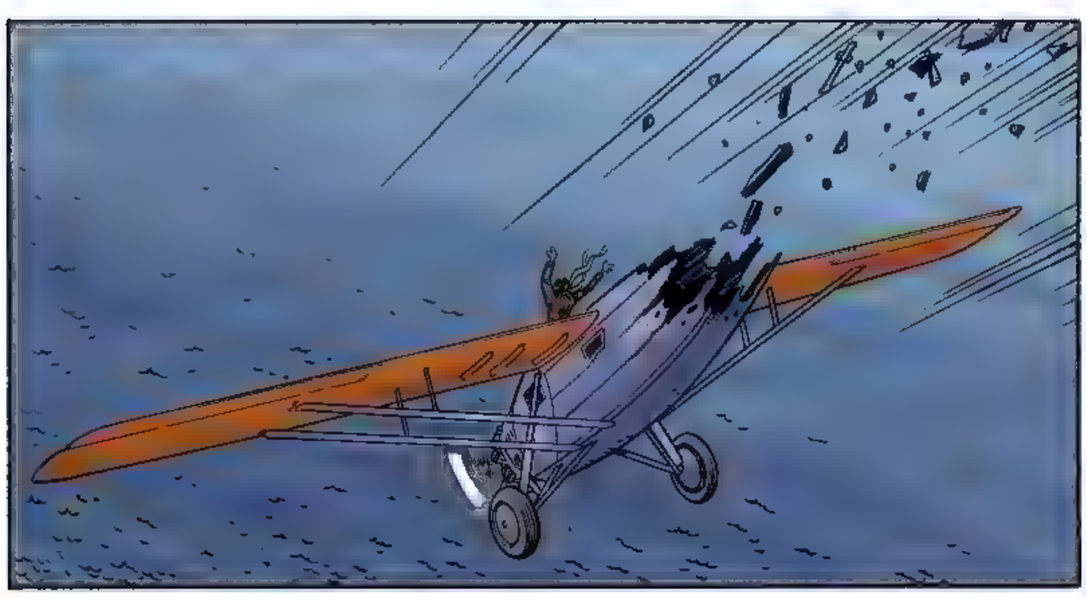

WHAT THE HELL'S HE DOING? WHY NOT STAY LOW?

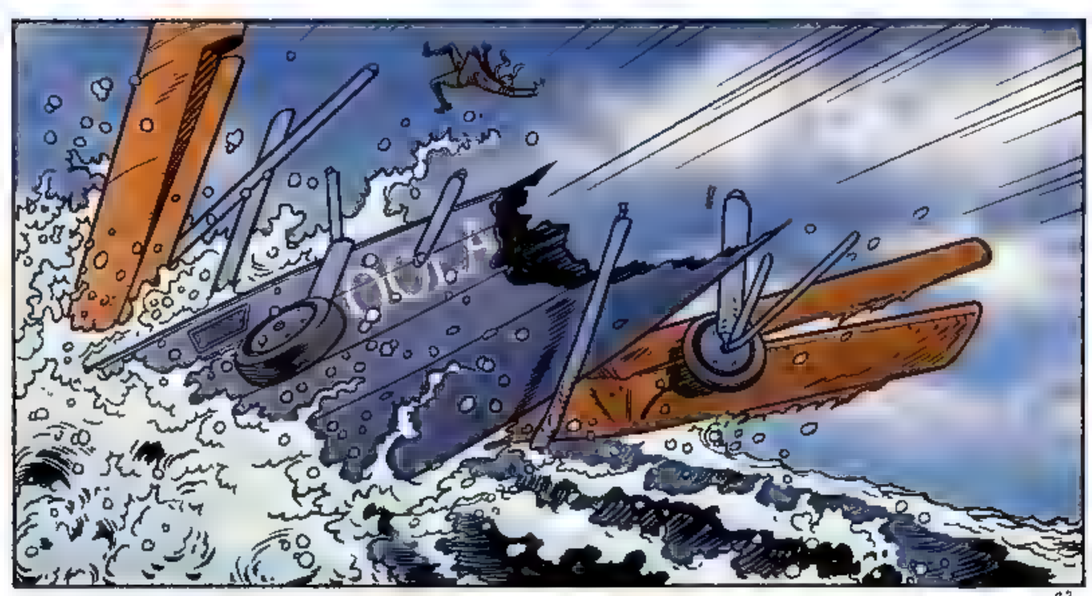


NO...! HE'S NOT...? HE'S CRAZY!


LET'S FLY!

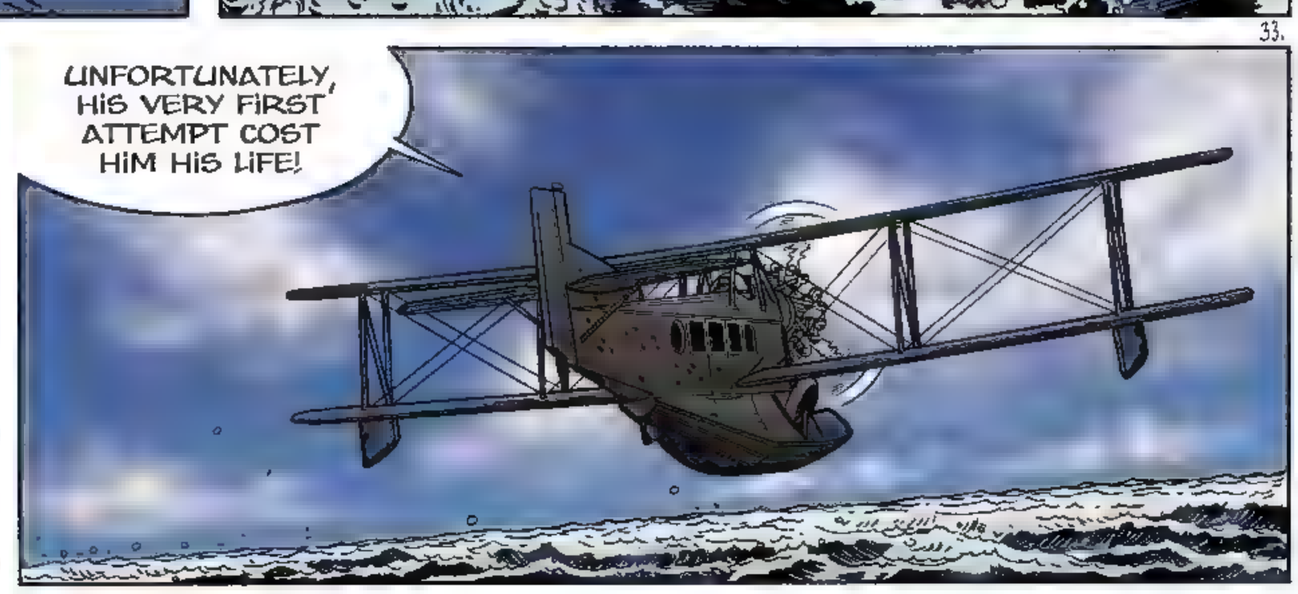






33.

A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TACTIC... INVENTED BY THE RUSSIAN ACE NESTEROV.


UNFORTUNATELY, HIS VERY FIRST ATTEMPT COST HIM HIS LIFE!

INGONISH ISLAND, OFF THE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA, SOME TIME LATER

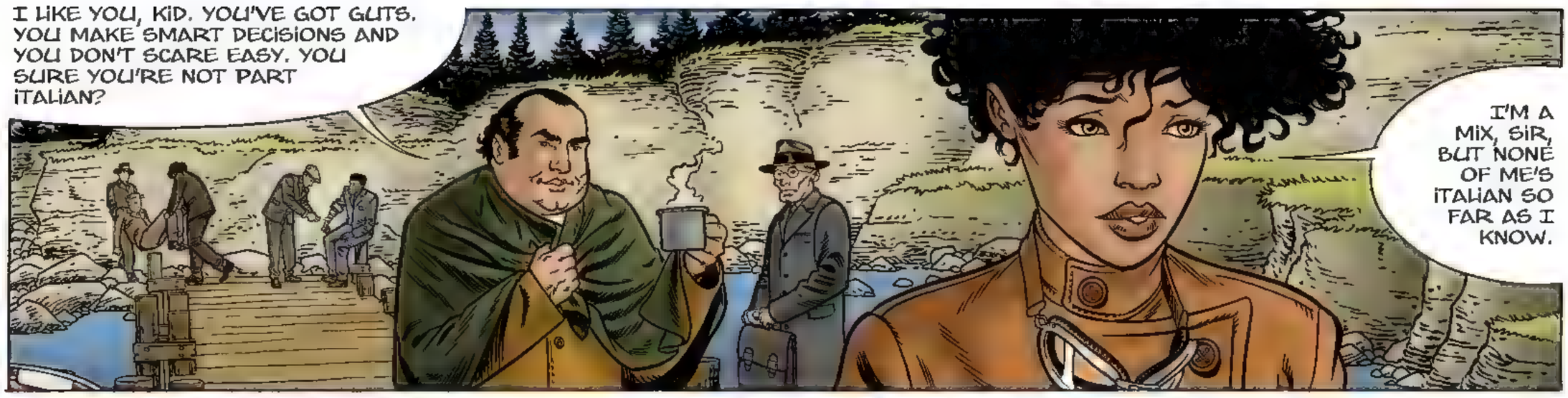
IT'S THEM!

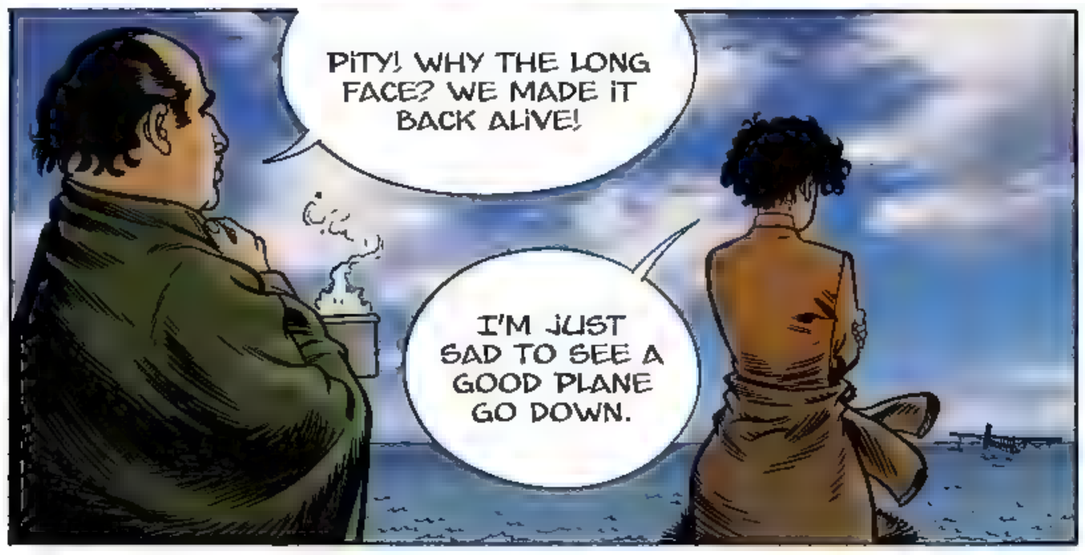
KEEP HER ABSOLUTELY LEVEL, TURN SLOWLY INTO THE WIND... WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! FINALLY, A PERFECT KISS LANDING!

OH MY GOD! WHAT ARE ALL THOSE BUBBLES?

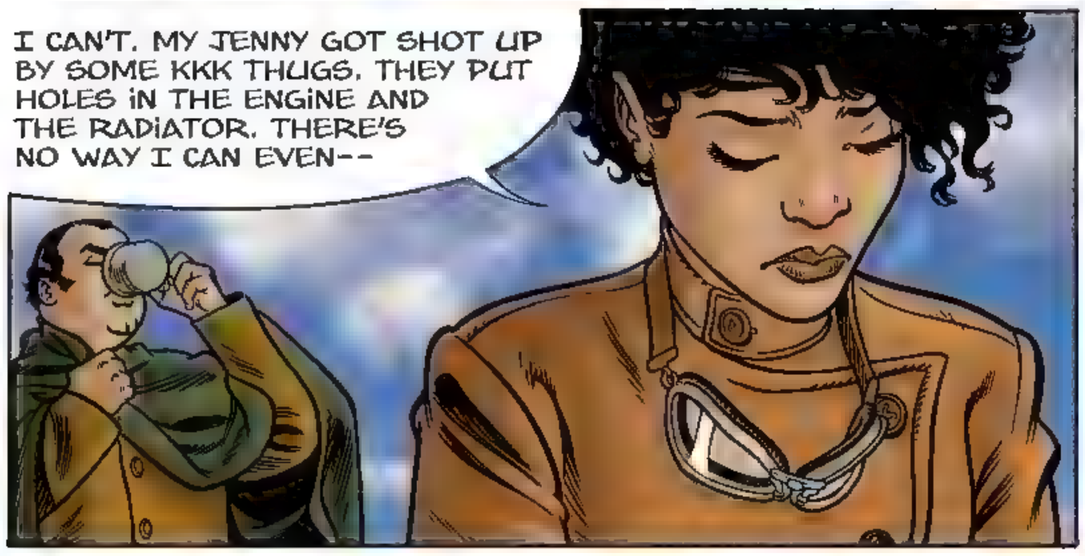
DAMN! THOSE BASTARDS MUST HAVE SHOT THE MAIN FLOAT FULL OF HOLES!

HURRY UP! GET OUT! THE PLANE'S TAKING ON WATER! WE'RE SINKING FAST!


I LIKE YOU, KID. YOU'VE GOT GUTS. YOU MAKE SMART DECISIONS AND YOU DON'T SCARE EASY. YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT PART ITALIAN?
I'M A MIX, SIR, BUT NONE OF ME'S ITALIAN SO FAR AS I KNOW.


PITY! WHY THE LONG FACE? WE MADE IT BACK ALIVE!
I'M JUST SAD TO SEE A GOOD PLANE GO DOWN.

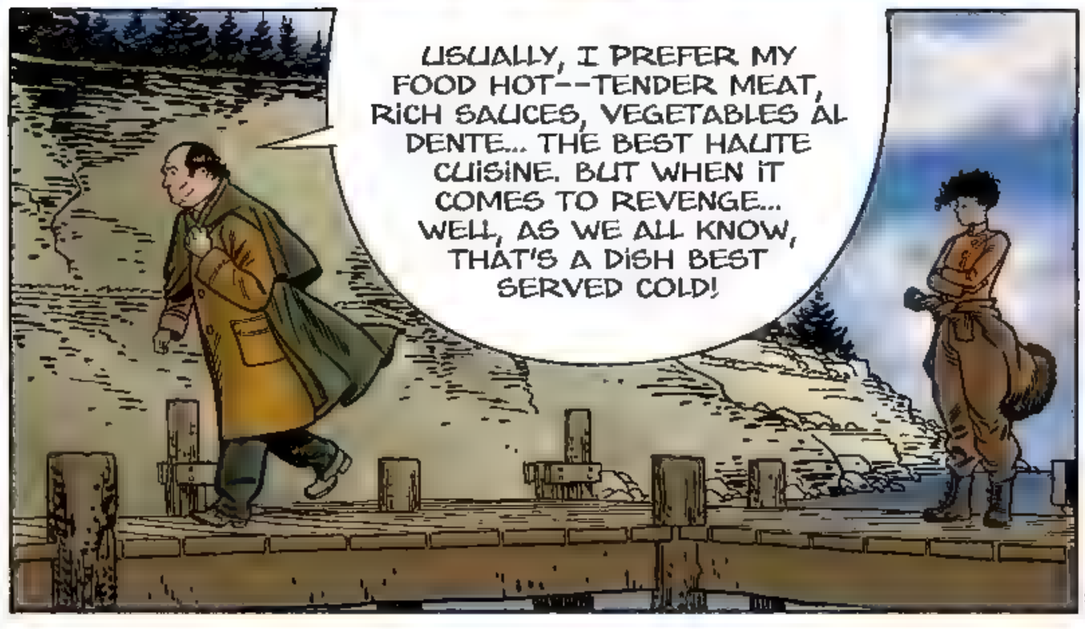
THERE'S NO TIME FOR REGRETS, KID! TIME IS MONEY! I'LL ORDER ANOTHER ONE... AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT ARRIVES. IN THE MEANTIME, I SUGGEST YOU GO BACK TO GIVING FLYING LESSONS. IT'S AN EXCELLENT COVER. THERE'S NO WAY THE FBI WILL INVESTIGATE A FLYING INSTRUCTOR!


I CAN'T. MY JENNY GOT SHOT UP BY SOME KKK THUGS. THEY PUT HOLES IN THE ENGINE AND THE RADIATOR. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVEN--

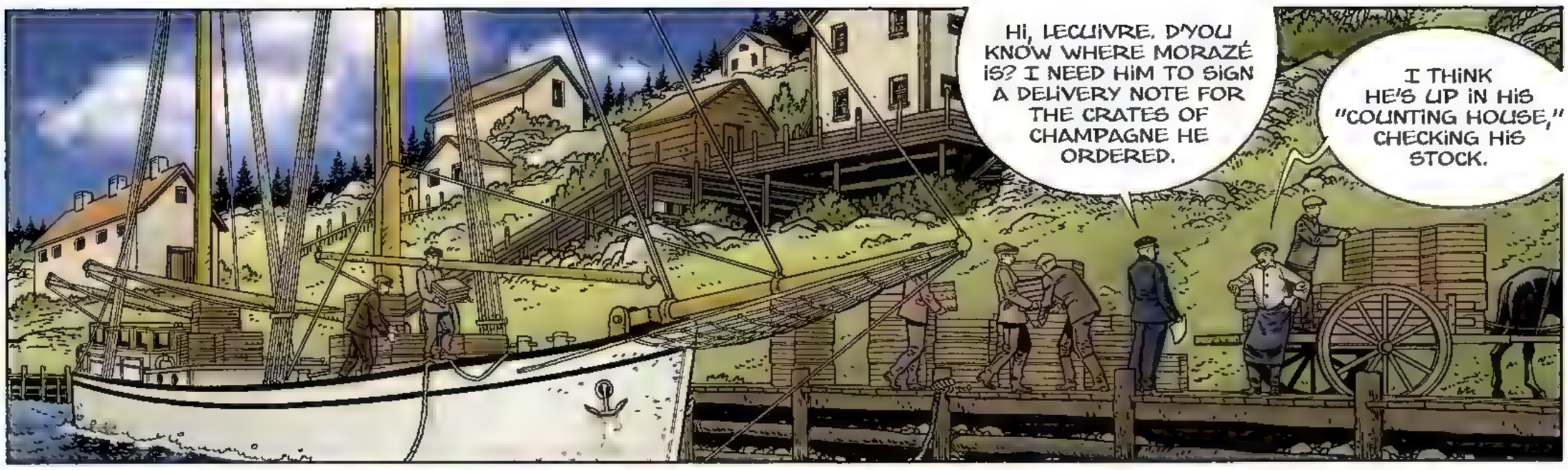
PIERRENSMAN! WAKE UP!

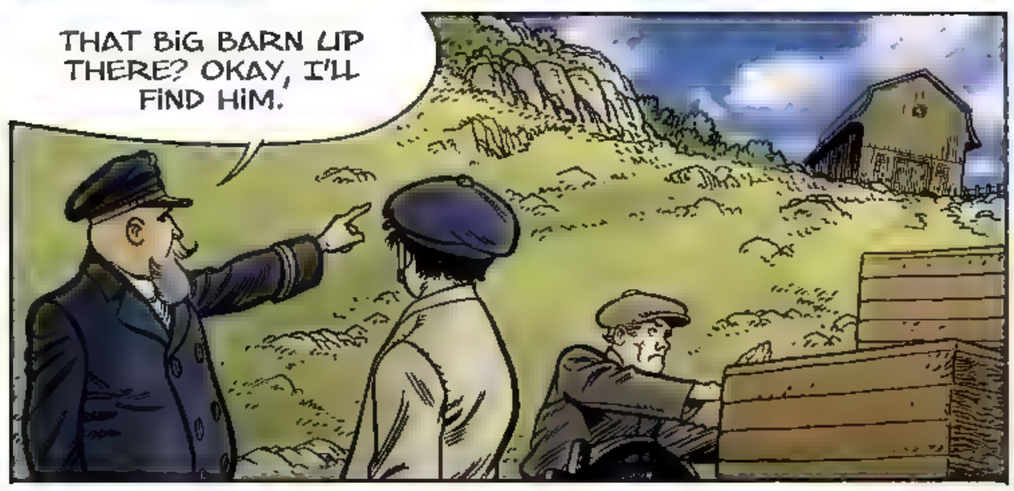
HERE... BUY YOURSELF A NEW ONE! THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR A 150-HORSEPOWER HISPANO-SUIZA 8 V8!

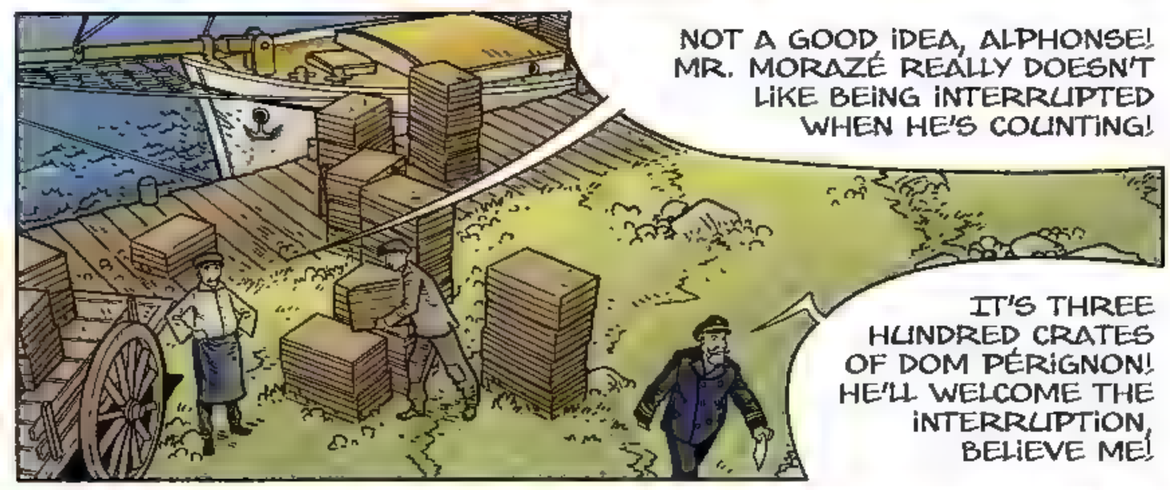
BUT... I CAN'T... I...
REGARD IT AS AN ADVANCE, RAGAZZA! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO CHICAGO.
I HAVE SOME LITTLE MATTERS TO SETTLE WITH A CERTAIN BUGS MORAN!


USUALLY, I PREFER MY FOOD HOT--TENDER MEAT, RICH SAUCES, VEGETABLES AL DENTE... THE BEST HAUTE CUISINE. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO REVENGE... WELL, AS WE ALL KNOW, THAT'S A DISH BEST SERVED COLD!

LIKE FROGS' LEGS POACHED IN WHITE WINE AND COATED IN BUTTER SAUCE, WITH A BIT OF TARRAGON AND CHOPPED PARSLEY! A SIMPLE BUT SOPHISTICATED LITTLE RECIPE--TO BE KEPT ON ICE UNTIL IT'S TIME TO ENJOY IT!
I'M QUITE SURE MR. MORAZÉ WILL APPRECIATE IT! HA HA HA!


HI, LECUIVRE. D'YOU KNOW WHERE MORAZÉ IS? I NEED HIM TO SIGN A DELIVERY NOTE FOR THE CRATES OF CHAMPAGNE HE ORDERED.
I THINK HE'S UP IN HIS "COUNTING HOUSE," CHECKING HIS STOCK.


THAT BIG BARN UP THERE? OKAY, I'LL FIND HIM.


NOT A GOOD IDEA, ALPHONSE! MR. MORAZÉ REALLY DOESN'T LIKE BEING INTERRUPTED WHEN HE'S COUNTING!
IT'S THREE HUNDRED CRATES OF DOM PÉRIGNON! HE'LL WELCOME THE INTERRUPTION, BELIEVE ME!

MR. MORAZÉ? IT'S CAPTAIN HIDOLIANE... I'VE BROUGHT THE DOM PÉRI--

36.

?!

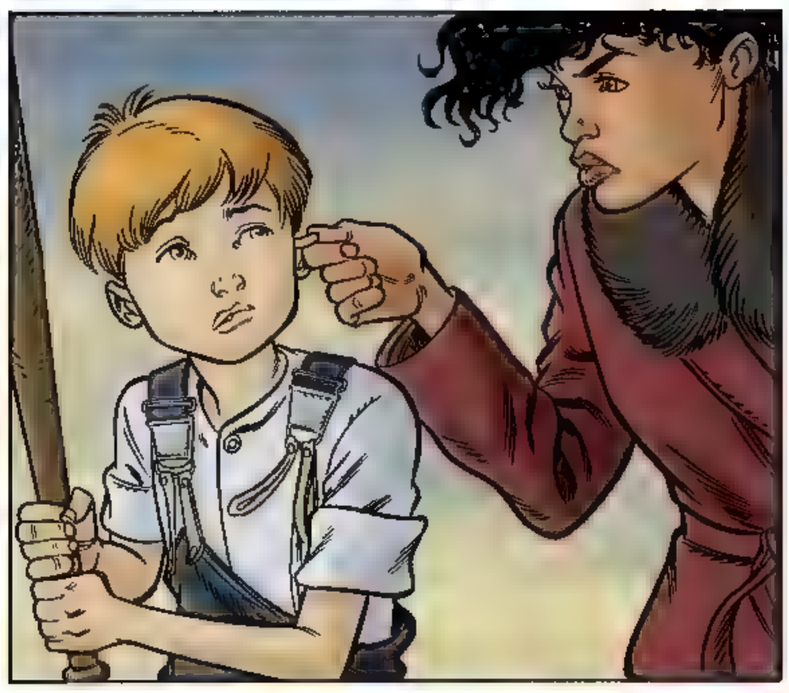
BUT WHERE'S THE PADLOCK?

OH, GOD! I HOPE NOT!

WHEW! MY JENNY'S STILL THERE!

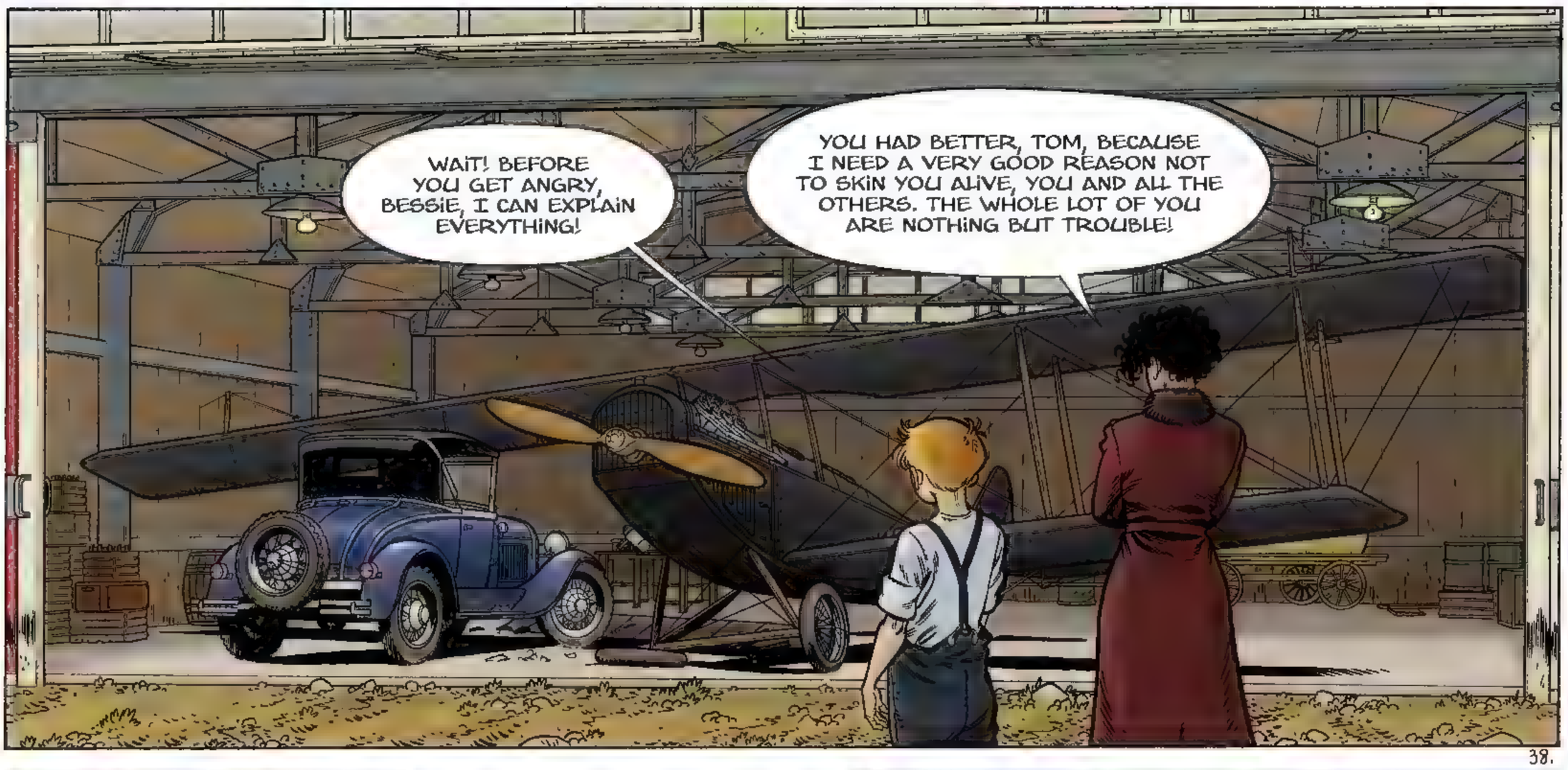
BUT WHY WAS THE--

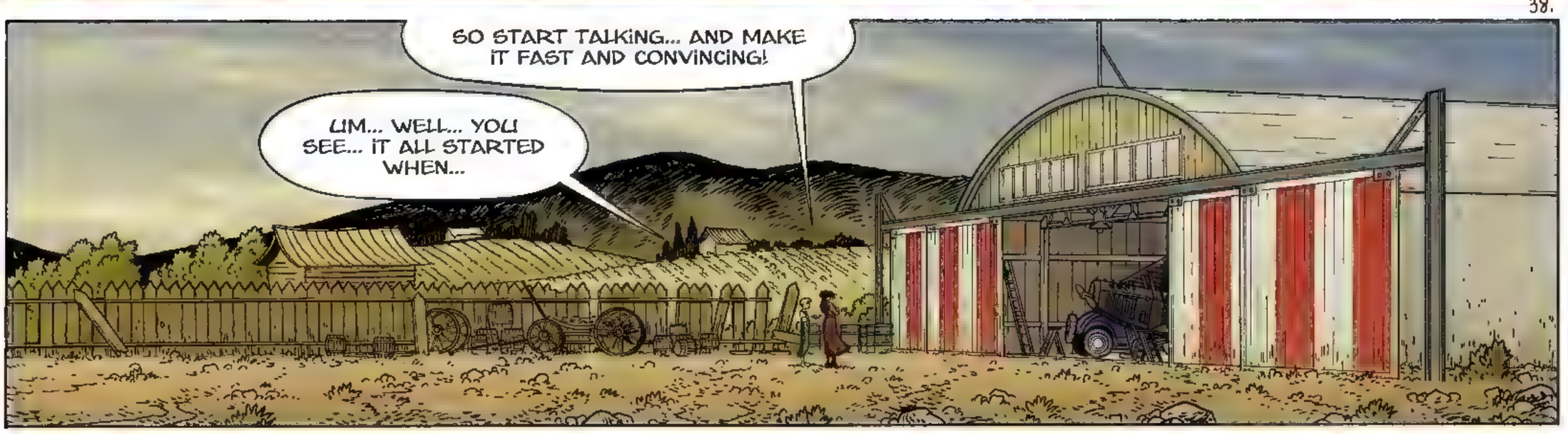
37.



YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
OW! OW! OOOOW!

SHE FOUND IT.
POOR TOM. I'M GLAD I'M NOT IN HIS SHOES!


WAIT! BEFORE YOU GET ANGRY, BESSIE, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
YOU HAD BETTER, TOM, BECAUSE I NEED A VERY GOOD REASON NOT TO SKIN YOU ALIVE, YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS. THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!


38.
SO START TALKING... AND MAKE IT FAST AND CONVINCING!
UM... WELL... YOU SEE... IT ALL STARTED WHEN...

WHAT? DISAPPEARED?!

WELL, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EITHER FOERSTER OR MUSOLINO FOR DAYS. IT'S LIKE THEY JUST EVAPORATED!

WE CAN'T EVEN FIND THEIR CAR.

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE THEY NORMALLY HANG OUT... THEY BOTH JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!

MUSOLINO'S WIFE SAID SHE REMEMBERS HIM SAYING THAT HE AND FOERSTER WERE GOING OUT TO LOOK AROUND DOGPATCH, WHERE SOME FOLKS SAID THEY'D SEEN A BLACK CURTISS BIPLANE...

"DOGPATCH"?

GRIFFITH'S THE BIRTH OF A NATION

THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ROUND THERE CALL BARDWELL. IT'S A GODFORSAKEN LITTLE PLACE OVER BY WAXAHACHIE CREEK, FULL OF HILLBILLIES HIGH ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. THEY ALL LIVE ON GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS.

SO HOW WOULD A BUNCH OF DRUGGIES WHO CAN'T EVEN CATCH FISH OR HULL WHEAT KNOW HOW TO FLY A PLANE?

I DUNNO... BUT THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

KKK

GO CHECK THE PLACE OUT, THEN! A FEW DEGENERATE HICKS WHO CAN BARELY FIND THEIR OWN ASSES WITH BOTH HANDS SHOULDN'T BE MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU.

BUT... THE GRAND DRAGON TOLD US WE HAD TO BE DISCREET. EVER SINCE THAT LYNCHING OVER ON STEWART ROAD, THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN OUT TO DISCREDIT OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION.

WE'RE DOING THE LORD'S WORK AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HIMSELF IS ONE OF OUR MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS. WHY SHOULD WE CARE IF SOME NAMBY-PAMBY CONGRESSMAN STARTS WAILING AND A FEW PEN-PUSHERS SHIT SOME INK? WHY SHOULD THAT MAKE US AFRAID?

39

SOME TIME LATER

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT? DEGENERATE BASTARDS! DISTILLING HOOCH RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN WITH NO CARE FOR THE LAW!

WE'LL TEACH THEM!

HANG ON! WE'RE NOT HERE JUST FOR A BLAST! BEFORE WE BLOW THEM AWAY, WE NEED SOME INFORMATION. LEAVE IT TO ME!

HOWDY, FELLAS! WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BARN OR A HANGAR AROUND HERE WITH AN AIRPLANE INSIDE IT.

A WHAT?

AH THINK HE BE TALKIN' ABOUT ONE OF THEM THANGS WHAT FLIES IN THE AIR PUKIN' OUT BLACK SMOKE!

AN AIRPLANE? IN DOGPATCH? YOU KIDDING?

SORRY, MISTER, BUT OUT HERE IN DOGPATCH WE AIN'T TOTALLY UP WITH THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS!

HEY, PASS ME ANOTHER EMPTY JUG!

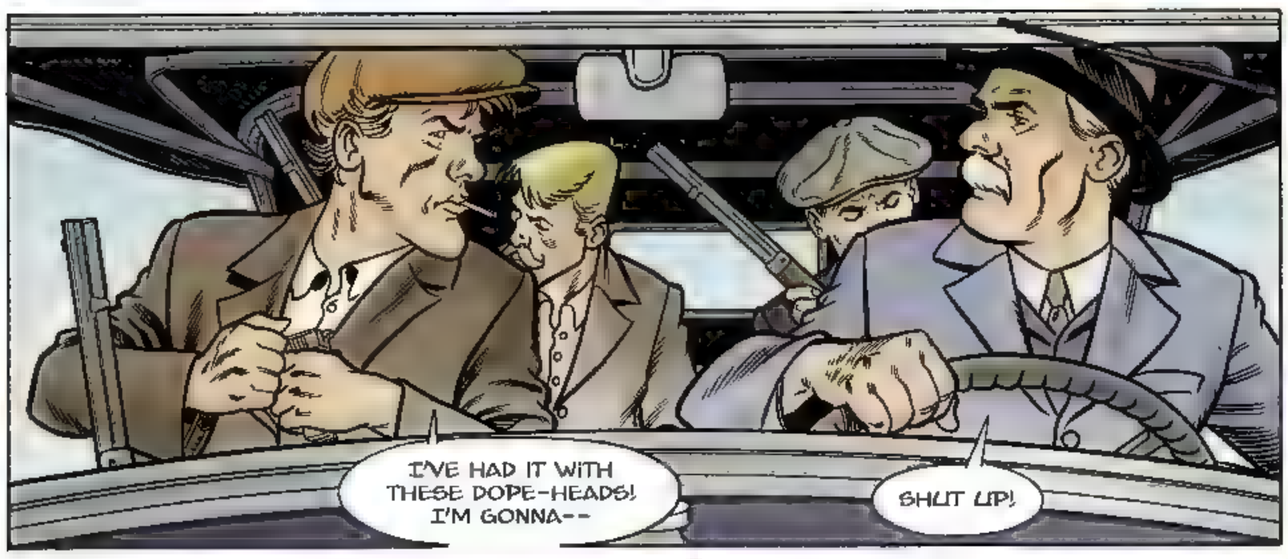
NEVER MIND. I SUPPOSE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A BLUE FORD MODEL T SEDAN AROUND HERE EITHER, THEN?

NOPE!

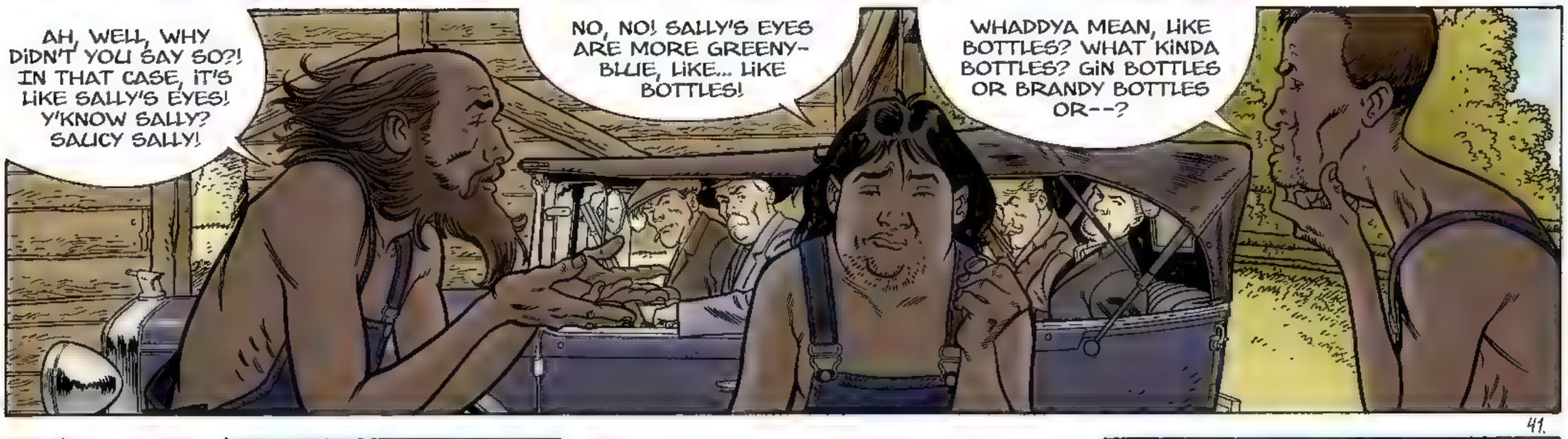
A BLUE T? ME NEITHER!

WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A GIRL! BLUE LIKE A CAR... INDIGO BLUE!

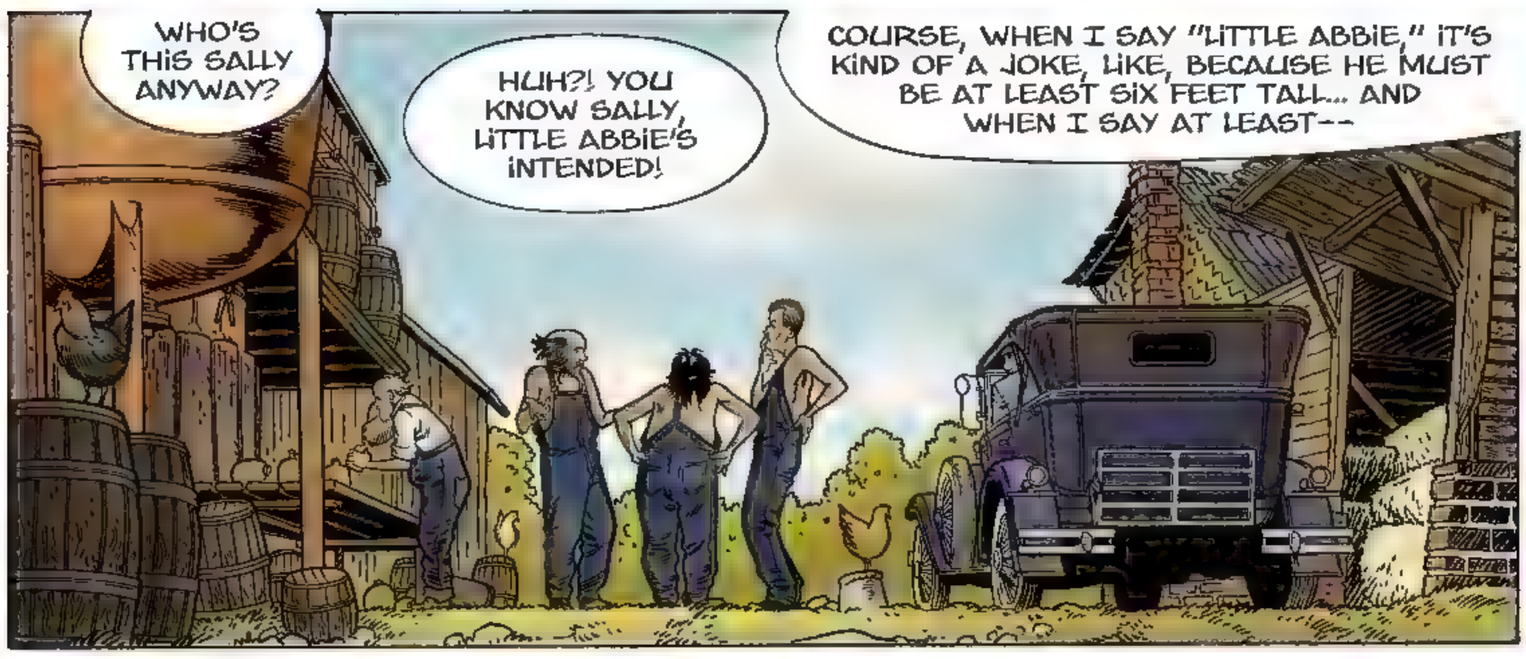
INDIGO? OH, NO. WE AIN'T SEEN NO INDIGOS AROUN' HERE IN A LONG WHILE. THAT GENERAL CUSTER, HE KILLED 'EM ALL!
INDIGOS AIN'T BLUE ANYWAYS... THEM'S MORE RED AND BROWN, FAR AS I KNOW...
HEY, PASS ME ANOTHER EMPTY JUG!


I'VE HAD IT WITH THESE DOPE-HEADS! I'M GONNA--
SHUT UP!

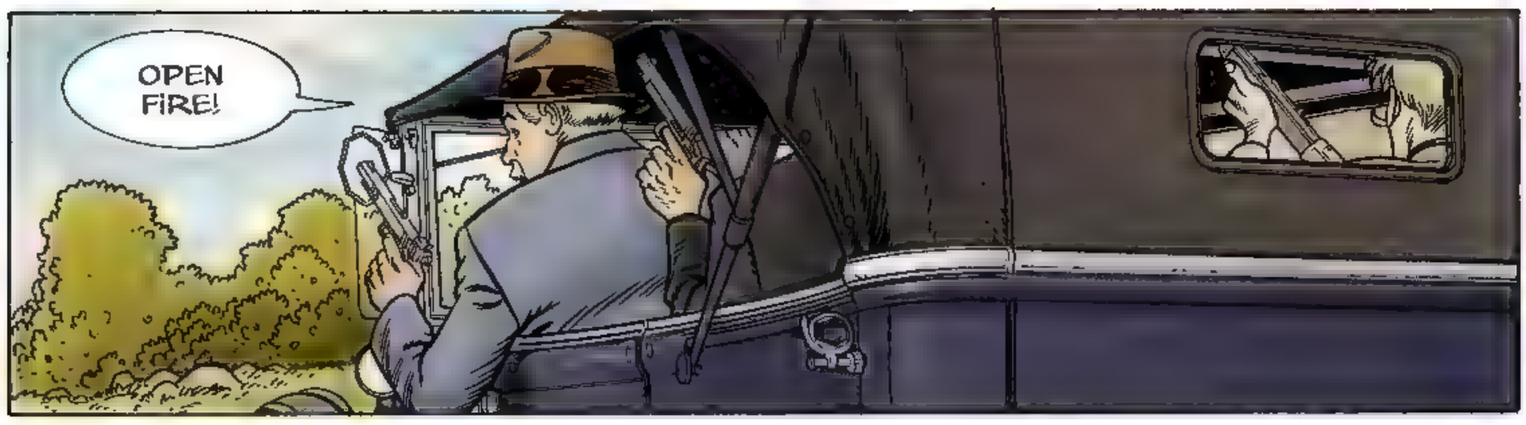
LET'S JUST SHOOT THE LOT OF THEM!
OKAY, BLUE LIKE VIOLETS THEN!


AH, WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?! IN THAT CASE, IT'S LIKE SALLY'S EYES! Y'KNOW SALLY? SAUCY SALLY!
NO, NO! SALLY'S EYES ARE MORE GREENY-BLUE, LIKE... LIKE BOTTLES!
WHADDYA MEAN, LIKE BOTTLES? WHAT KINDA BOTTLES? GIN BOTTLES OR BRANDY BOTTLES OR--?

41.


WHO'S THIS SALLY ANYWAY?
HUH?! YOU KNOW SALLY, LITTLE ABBIE'S INTENDED!
COURSE, WHEN I SAY "LITTLE ABBIE," IT'S KIND OF A JOKE, LIKE, BECAUSE HE MUST BE AT LEAST SIX FEET TALL... AND WHEN I SAY AT LEAST--

BLAAM!
BLAAM!
BLAAM!
BLAAM!
BLAAM!

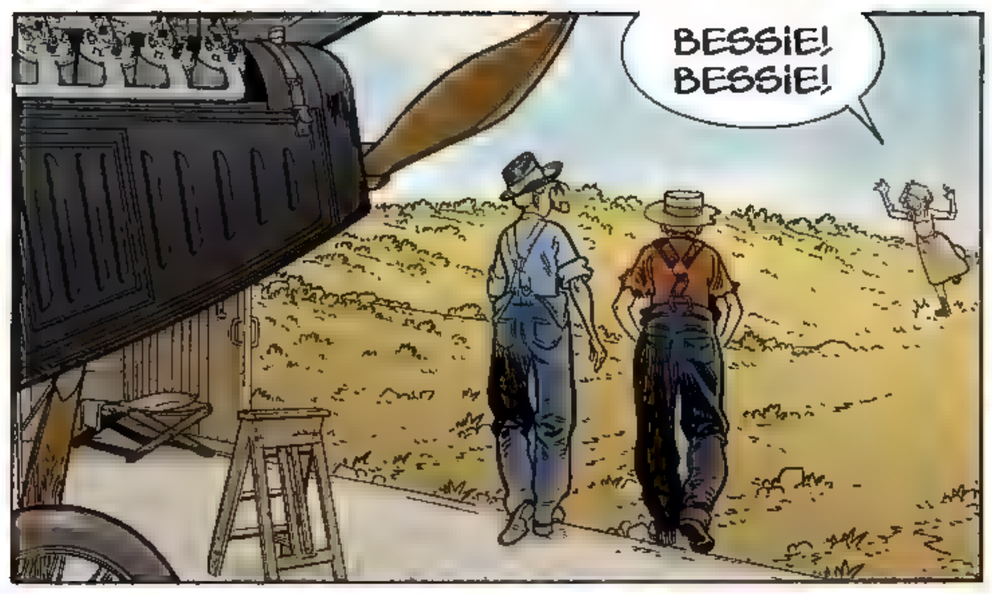

OPEN FIRE!

FORGET IT, BESSIE! YOU'LL NEVER GET THAT OLD CHICKEN COUP TO FLY AGAIN!
HE'S RIGHT! YOU MIGHT AS WELL USE IT AS A HEN HOUSE! OR JUST SET FIRE TO WHAT'S LEFT OF IT AND GET ANOTHER ONE FROM ARMY SURPLUS!

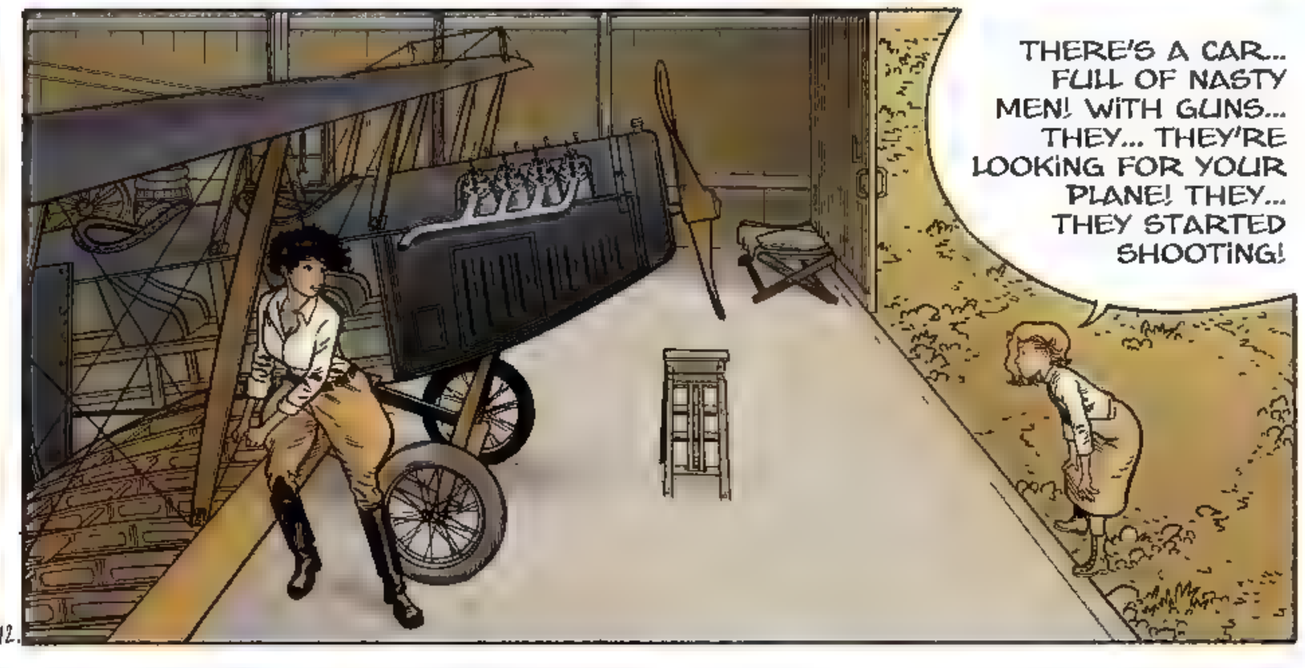
I DON'T CARE HOW LONG IT TAKES, I'LL MAKE MY JENNY FLY AGAIN!

RIGHT! THE DAY HENS START GROWING TEETH!
CLICK! CLICK!

OH, GET LOST, WILL YOU!
LEAVE ME IN PEACE!


BESSIE! BESSIE!

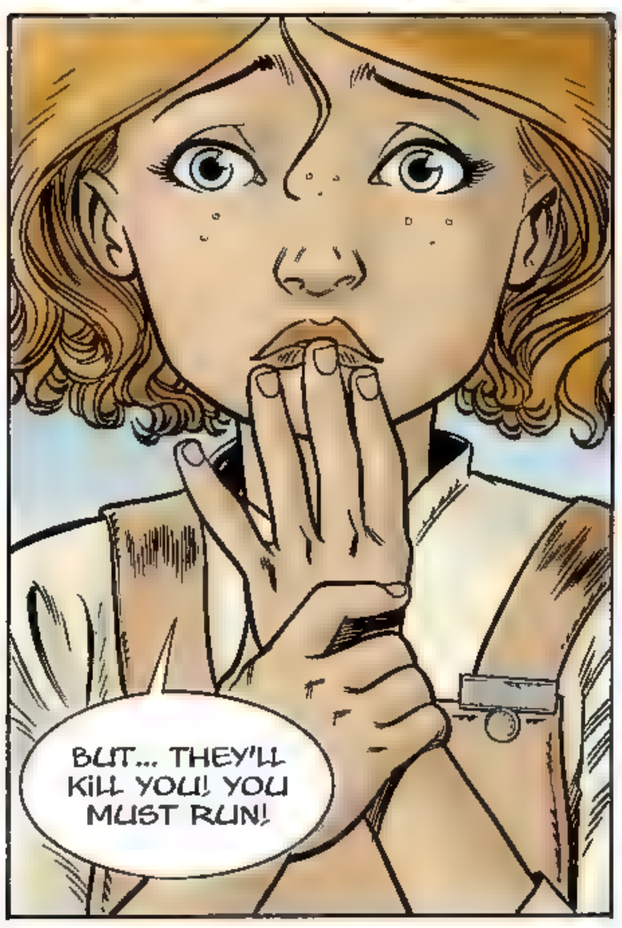
OH, IT'S YOU, TABITHA.
I'M WARNING YOU, IF YOU'VE ALSO COME TO TELL ME TO STOP WORKING ON--


THERE'S A CAR... FULL OF NASTY MEN! WITH GUNS... THEY... THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR PLANE! THEY... THEY STARTED SHOOTING!

MEN WITH GUNS?! HOW MANY OF THEM?
FOUR... FOUR OR FIVE, I THINK! THEY'RE UP AT THE OLD SAWMILL!

IT MUST BE THOSE BASTARDS FROM THE KKK! SHIT! SOMEONE'S TOLD THEM WHERE I AM!

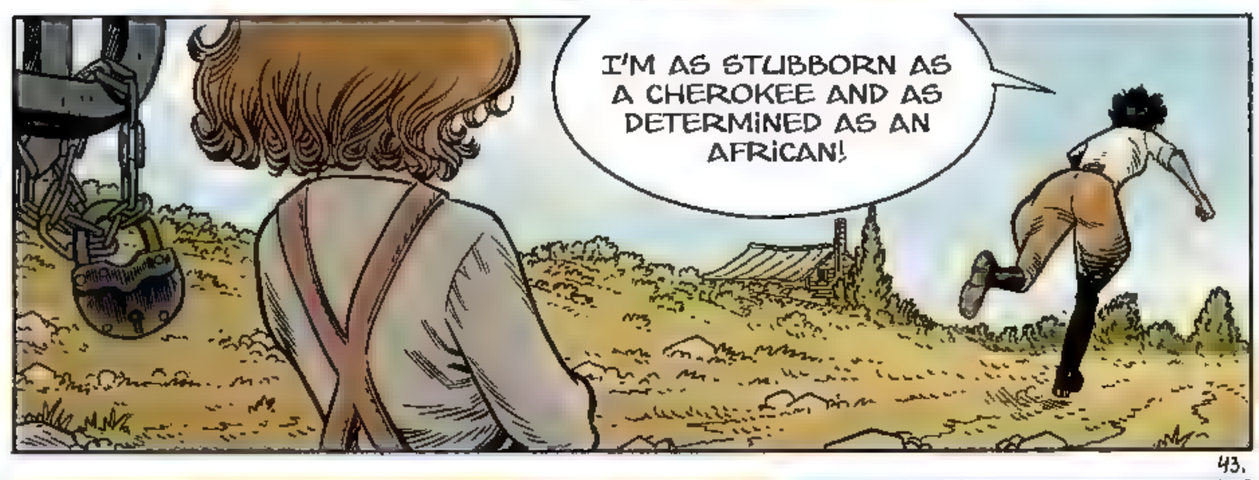
YOU... YOU GOTTA GET AWAY, BESSIE!
RUN AWAY? AND ABANDON MY JENNY? NO WAY!

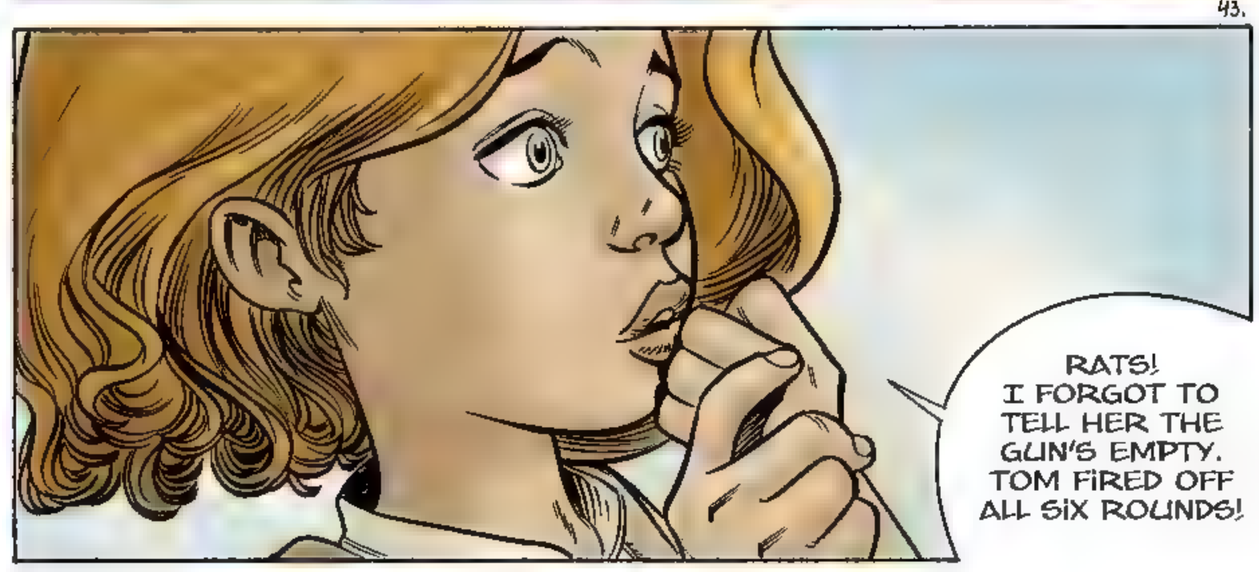

BUT... THEY'LL KILL YOU! YOU MUST RUN!

WHERE TO? WHEREVER I RUN TO, THE KLAN WILL ALWAYS FIND ME!

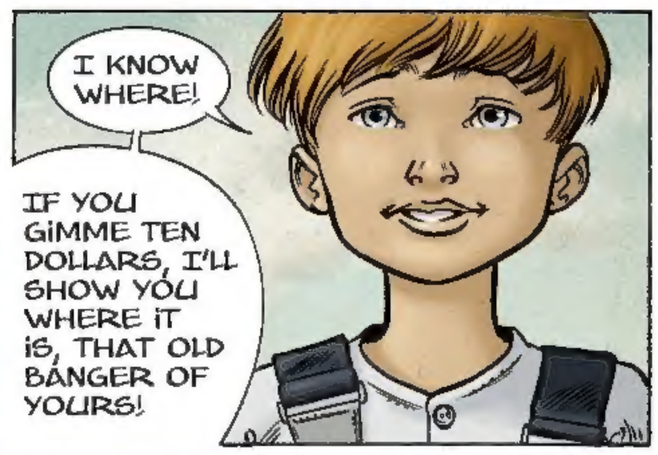
NO, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH THE KU KLUX KLAN!

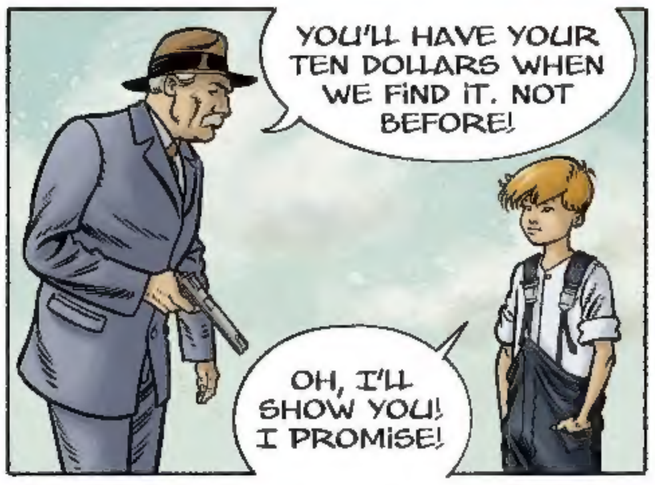
THOSE DIRTY RACISTS WILL FIND OUT THAT I HAVE ALL MY ANCESTORS' WORST CHARACTERISTICS!

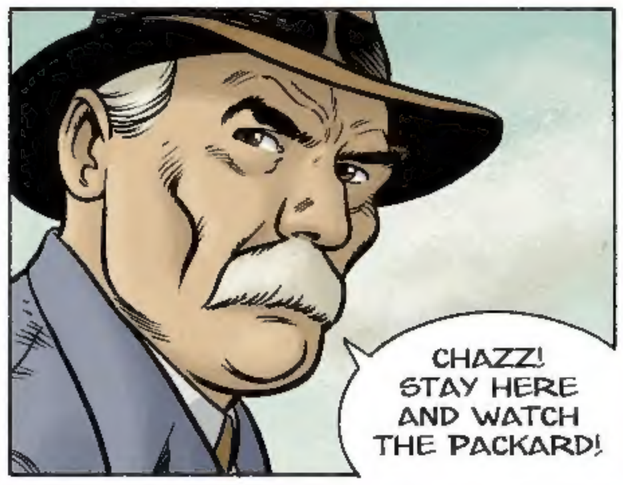

I'M AS STUBBORN AS A CHEROKEE AND AS DETERMINED AS AN AFRICAN!
43.


RATS! I FORGOT TO TELL HER THE GUN'S EMPTY. TOM FIRED OFF ALL SIX ROUNDS!

HA HA! WHAT A DUCK SHOOT!
NO KIDDING! THOSE MORONS RAN LIKE RABBITS!
I'LL BET THEY ALL SHIT THEIR PANTS, TOO!
BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BLACK PLANE IS... NOR COLBY AND HOMER'S MODEL T!


I KNOW WHERE!
IF YOU GIMME TEN DOLLARS, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE IT IS, THAT OLD BANGER OF YOURS!


YOU'LL HAVE YOUR TEN DOLLARS WHEN WE FIND IT. NOT BEFORE!
OH, I'LL SHOW YOU! I PROMISE!

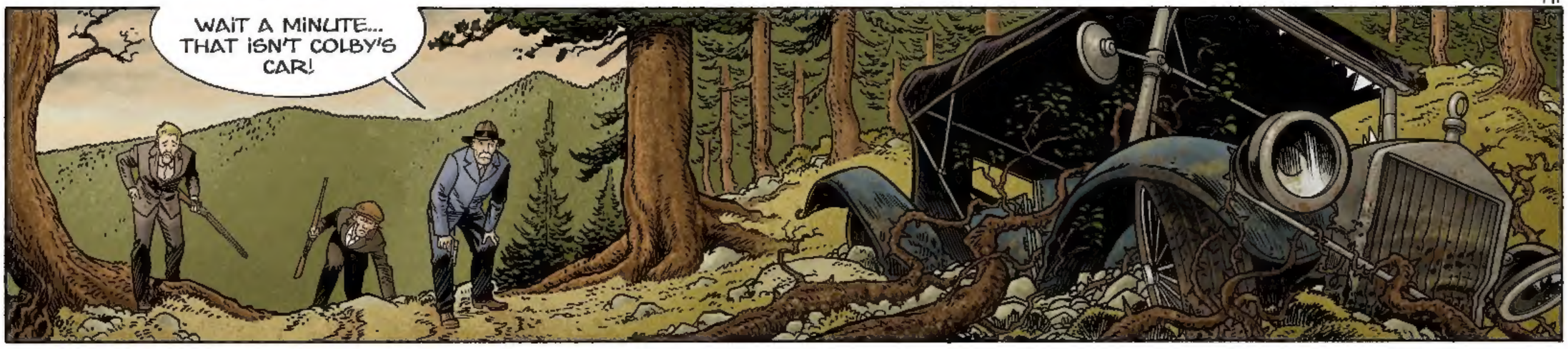

CHAZZ! STAY HERE AND WATCH THE PACKARD!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET A MOVE ON!

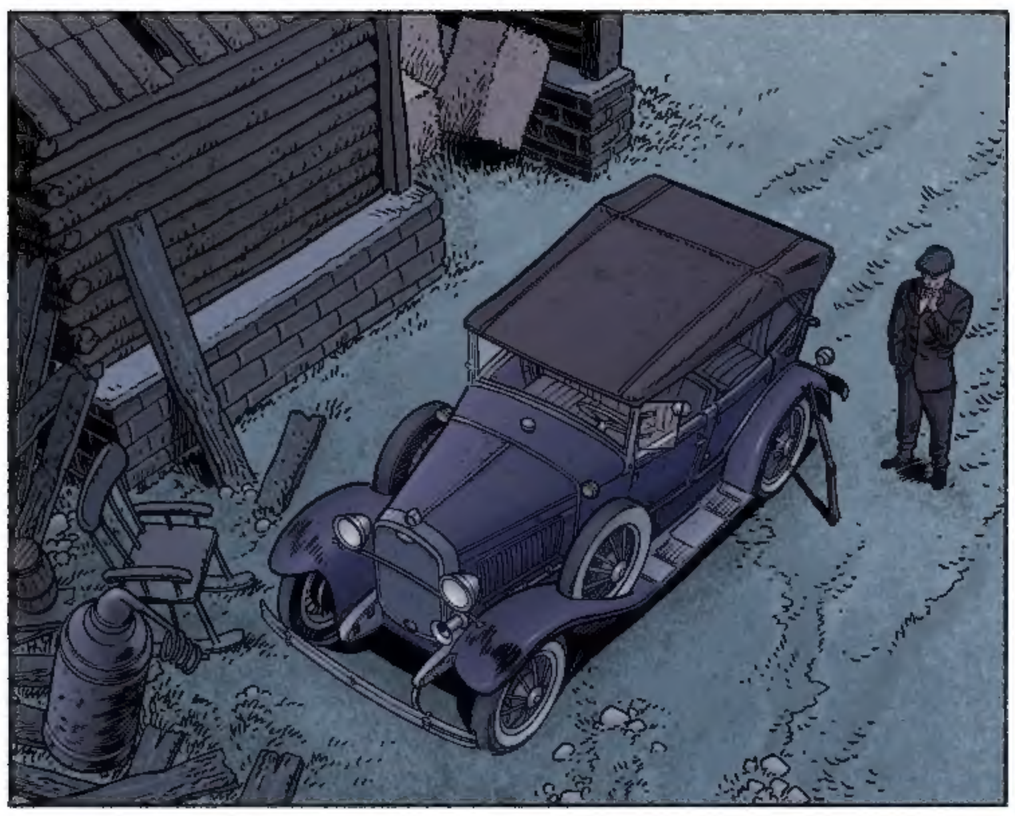
BLAST! THESE ARE MY GOOD SHOES!

I CAN'T STAND ALL THESE DAMNED MOSQUITOES!

WE MUST HAVE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS ALREADY! IT'LL BE DARK SOON!
HERE IT IS, YOUR JALOPY! RIGHT HERE! C'MON, HURRY UP!
44.

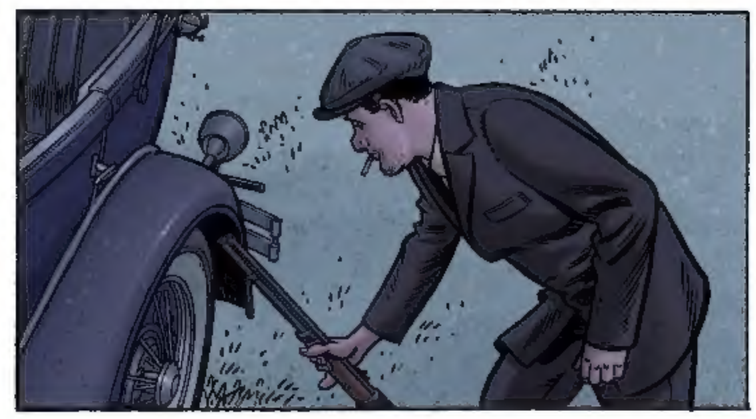

WAIT A MINUTE... THAT ISN'T COLBY'S CAR!

THAT LITTLE RUNT'S MADE A FOOL OF US! BUT... WHERE IS HE?
HE'S GONE!
SHOOT IN THE AIR! THAT'LL SCARE HIM OUT OF HIS HIDING PLACE!
DIE, YOU ASSHOLES!
OW! WHAT DO WE DO? OW! SHOOT THEM?
ARE YOU NUTS?! RUN!
OW! THE PESKY LITTLE BRATS! OW! THEY SURE KNOW HOW TO THROW ROCKS, THOSE KIDS!
BUT WHY CAN'T... OW! WHY CAN'T WE JUST SHOOT THEM?
DO YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN PRISON?!
SHOOTING A FEW HILLBILLIES MAKING SOME ILLEGAL HOOCH IS ONE THING, BUT KIDS... THE GRAND DRAGON WOULD HAVE OUR GUTS FOR GARTERS!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY WE CAME?
IT BETTER BE! I'M NOT TRYING ANOTHER SWAMP!
THERE ARE PROBABLY LEECHES IN HERE!
WILL YOU TWO JUST SHUT UP?!



?!

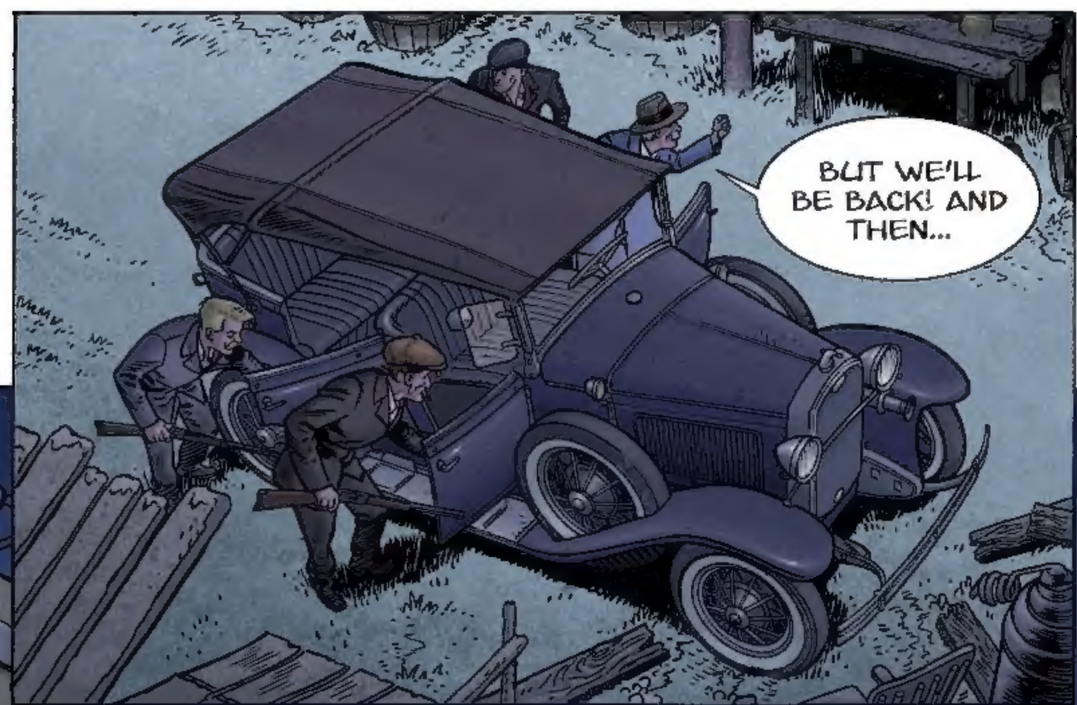
WHO'S THERE?! ANSWER OR I SHOOT!

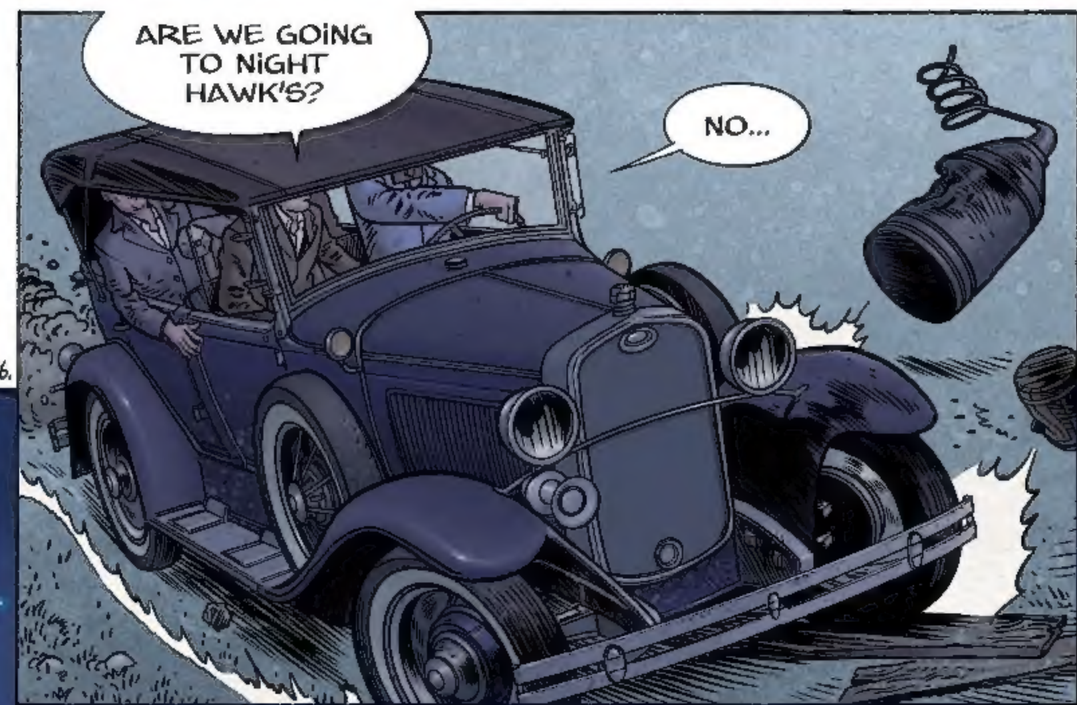


YOU ASKED FOR IT, YOU BASTARD!
BLAAM!

CHAZZ! DON'T SHOOT, YOU IDIOT! IT'S US!

BUT... WHAT HAPPENED?
NEVER MIND! START THE CAR!


BUT WE'LL BE BACK! AND THEN...


ARE WE GOING TO NIGHT HAWK'S?
NO...

...TO THE GRAND DRAGON'S!
YANN
HENRIET
USAGI

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Translation: Joseph Laredo
Editing: Michelle Parker
Lettering: Cromatik Ltd.
Original title: Black Squaw, Tome 2. Scarface
Originally published in French by DUPUIS in 2020
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Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union